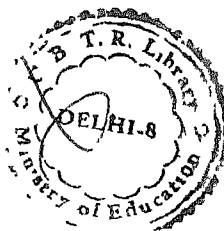


“ENGLAND'S HISTORY” SERIES

BOOK II

THE AGE OF ADVENTURE  
AND EXPANSION  
(1485-1702)

BY  
W. B. LITTLE



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*By*  
**W. B. LITTLE**

In Three Books. Each size 7½ in by 5½ in

- Book I Early Days to 1485
- „ II. The Age of Adventure  
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## A U T H O R ' S   N O T E

“ HISTORY hath triumphed over time ”  
RALEIGH

THE story of English history is continued in this second book of the series. Within the scope of the book a connected narrative has been attempted. The main events are illustrated by charts and pictures.

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The illustrations from films serve a double purpose: they show that it is possible to reconstruct historical scenes, and remind readers that history can be dramatized.

W. B. L.



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# “ENGLAND’S HISTORY” SERIES

## BOOK II

1485

HENRY VII

1509

← ————— Reigned 24 years ————— →		
A clever statesman, a miser, made Tudors secure and powerful		
<i>Rebellions</i>		
Simnel	Star Chamber	1492 Columbus dis America
Perkin Warbeck	“Morton’s Fork”	1497 Cabot dis Newfoundland (Cornish)

### 1. A KING RESTORES ORDER

ENGLAND had suffered through long years of war. First there was the long struggle with France, known as “The Hundred Years War,” and then the civil war between rival barons, which is called “The Wars of the Roses.” What England now wanted was a strong ruler and a period of peace in which law and order could be restored, so that the nation could be united and have opportunity to progress. In Europe, both France and Spain were becoming strong and united nations.

There were definite reasons why the time had come for the nations of Western Europe to advance. These may be briefly stated as follows—

- (a) The invention of printing made it possible for a wider circle of people to study for themselves
- (b) When the Turks took Constantinople in 1453, the Greek scholars who lived there fled to Italy, and brought learning back with them to Western Europe.
- (c) The work of Henry the Navigator and other seamen

had widened men's knowledge of how to sail the seas. This encouraged adventurers to explore the world and endeavour



HENRY VII

*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

to find new routes to the markets of Asia, where spices and precious stones could be obtained.

(d) The Bible was translated into various languages, and people in general began to think for themselves about religious questions.

After his victory at Bosworth Field in 1485, HENRY TUDOR was crowned King of England by Lord Stanley on

the field of battle with the crown of Richard III, which had been discovered in a hedge. Later he was formally crowned in Westminster Abbey. Then he married Elizabeth of York and, as he himself was of the House of Lancaster, he expected that this would settle the differences which had led to the Wars of the Roses. Unfortunately it did not, for some of the Yorkists wished to place one of their number on the throne, and twice they took up arms against the King.

THE Two REBELLIONS. The first was in support of a good-looking boy of fifteen named LAMBERT SIMNEL, who said he was the Earl of Warwick. This lad was taken to Ireland, where the people were loyal to the Yorkists, and crowned king in Dublin. The Yorkists, with some hired soldiers from Germany, then invaded England. Henry easily defeated the rebels, and when he captured Simnel, instead of putting the boy to death he wisely gave him a job in the royal kitchen. So the "pretender" turned the meat instead of ruling a kingdom, and people laughed to think that such a boy would ever have made a king.

Another revolt was led by the Yorkists five years later. They said that the young princes in the Tower had not been killed, and they found another "pretender," PERKIN WARBECK, who, they declared, was the younger of the princes—the Duke of York. Many people were deceived, and Perkin found supporters in Ireland, Scotland, and Cornwall, but after some years of revolt he was captured and put in the Tower. There he met the real Earl of Warwick and they plotted to escape. Their plans were discovered and both were put to death.

Having now made himself secure as king, Henry decided that there were two things which he must do—lessen the power of the barons, and secure as much money as possible.

CONTROLLING THE BARONS. One of the first laws which he passed forbade the barons to keep retainers, and declared

that only ordinary domestic servants might wear the uniform or livery of their lord. This law made it wrong for a baron to keep a private army of his own. Of course the barons resented this, and many of them broke the law, but Henry found them out and fined them heavily. The story is told of how Henry once paid a visit to his friend the Earl of Oxford. As he entered the castle he had to pass between two rows of attendants, all dressed in the livery of the Earl of Oxford. The king said nothing until the feast was over and he departed, again passing between the attendants. "These handsome gentlemen and yeomen, whom I see on both sides of me, are surely your menial servants," said the king. The Earl smilingly replied that they were retainers who had come to do the Earl service and to honour the king. "I thank you for your good cheer," said the king, "but I cannot have my laws broken. My lawyer must speak to you." And the noble Earl was fined £10,000.

There was a danger in those days that, if a very rich and powerful man broke the law, the judges would be afraid to declare him guilty. Henry set up a court to try such men, and this, because of the stars painted on the ceiling of the room where the court was held, was called the COURT OF STAR CHAMBER. The chief men of the King's Council were the judges, and none of these stood in fear of the nobles.

HENRY GATHERS WEALTH. Henry wanted money; he knew that with this he could hire an army to fight any fierce baron who might break out in rebellion. He had many ways of getting it. One of his ministers, named CARDINAL MORTON, got money for his master by using what he called *Morton's Fork*. If a nobleman lived in style, Morton said to him, "You live in a very grand way, you must be rich; give me some of your money for the king." If, on the other hand, a baron lived simply, Morton would

say, "You do not seem to spend much money, you must be saving quite a lot; give me some of your savings for the king." So he caught all of them on one or other prong of his "fork." The people were good-natured, however, about the king's requests, for they knew he was a wise ruler who had brought peace to the country.

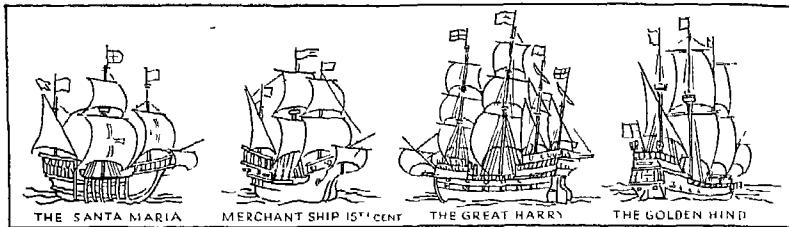
Henry had another way of bringing peace to England: this was by *arranging marriages*. It may seem a strange method, but it attained its object. His own marriage was made to bring peace between the Yorkists and Lancastrians. England, again, had long quarrelled with Scotland. Henry thought of a way of making peace—he would marry his daughter MARGARET to KING JAMES OF SCOTLAND. This reconciled the two countries and, as you will learn, it was as a result of this marriage that in 1603 a king of Scotland became king of England also, and the two *crowns* were united.

In Europe, one of the most statesmanlike of kings at this time was FERDINAND OF ARAGON. Henry thought this was the kind of man it would be wise to be friendly with, therefore he got Ferdinand to allow his youngest daughter, CATHERINE, to marry Arthur, the Prince of Wales. A year later Arthur died, but this did not discourage Henry, for he arranged that Catherine of Aragon should then marry his second son, HENRY.

Henry's plans were well laid. He had subdued the barons, had given peace to England both at home and abroad, and had begun to amass a large fortune.

### EXERCISES

- 1 What difficulties did Henry VII have to contend with when he came to the throne?
- 2 Why can Warbeck and Simnel be called *Pretenders*?
- 3 What steps did Henry take to subdue the barons?
- 4 Why did England want peace?
- 5 What was "Morton's Fork"?
- 6 How do you think marriages may help the cause of peace?



## 2. EXPLORERS

IT was in the reign of Henry VII that the Continent of America was discovered. When the Turks captured Constantinople in 1453, the caravan routes to India and the East were endangered. Along these caravan routes gold, gems and spices were brought. People prized the spices almost as much as the gold and precious stones, for during the winter months the only meat served as food was salt meat. In those days there were no turnips and little winter feed for cattle, so in autumn the fat cattle were killed and their flesh was salted. Now, salt meat is not pleasant to eat if it is served up day after day, and it was found that spices made the food more palatable. As the supply of spices diminished, the price rose higher, and people began to ask—"Is there no other way of getting to the East than by the old caravan routes?"

The Portuguese had been interested in this problem for quite a long time. You will remember the work of Henry the Navigator. Many of the cleverest map-makers and sailors made their homes in Portugal. Amongst these were CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS and his brother, Bartholomew. Now, Columbus was a believer in the new idea about the shape of the world. Men of early days thought that the world was flat and that if they went too far from land they might come to the edge and slip over into a place of unknown terrors.

Scientists declared that the world was round, and Columbus, setting up an egg before him, would show men

that if this were so, then by sailing *westwards* they would at last reach the *east*.

COLUMBUS SEEKS SUPPORT. With this idea firmly fixed in his mind he went to the king of Portugal and asked him to fit out ships to go on the great adventure. The king laughed at the suggestion, as did Ferdinand of Spain. Undaunted, Columbus sent his brother, Bartholomew, to see Henry VII. On his journey, Bartholomew fell into the hands of pirates and was delayed. Escaping at last, he reached London in rags and started to earn money by drawing maps and charts. At last he saw the king, and Henry seemed to like the idea, but being a miser, did not wish to risk much money. Meanwhile, Columbus could not understand his brother's delay, and went again to the Spanish court. The queen, Isabella, had decided to sell some of her jewels to pay for the expedition. So Henry's chance had gone.

When people knew where Columbus was to sail, they were afraid of what would happen to the vessels, and it was with great difficulty that crews were obtained for the three sailing-ships—*Santa Maria*, *Nina*, and *Pinta*. Dangerous prisoners were promised release on their return if they would sail with Columbus, and other sailors were kidnapped and taken on board. These ships were quite small, the largest, the *Santa Maria*, being only ninety-three feet in length. At last the small fleet set sail on the 3rd August, 1492. Day after day, week after week went by and the ships sailed on. The sailors looked eagerly for land, but in vain. Would they ever see any?—would disaster overtake them? They began to whisper angrily, and even suggested throwing Columbus overboard and turning the ships homewards again.

COLUMBUS FINDS LAND. Columbus gathered his men together and promised them that if no land was sighted in three days they should return. Two days went by and

nothing was seen, but the sight of birds and of sticks and plants floating in the sea gave them hope. That night, the night of 11th October, a light was seen in the distance, and when dawn came they saw before them an island. The people who lived there were at first afraid of the white-faced Spaniards, but Columbus treated them well and gave them presents. For some weeks Columbus sailed in and out of the islands, wondering how far he was from India and the Spice Islands. At that time he did not know that he had found a new continent, and he named the islands the INDIES.

He returned to Spain after seven months' absence. The Spaniards had given up Columbus and his men for lost, on their return, therefore, the voyagers had a great welcome, with ringing of bells and feastings. The king and queen were delighted when they saw the gold and precious stones Columbus brought back. Here, they thought, was a great discovery for Spain, and no other country should have a share in it.

CABOT DISCOVERS NORTH AMERICA. But England soon sent out explorers to the new continent. In Bristol lived two famed Genoese sailors, JOHN CABOT and his son, SEBASTIAN. They asked Henry VII to give them permission to sail to sea, east, west or north, and "to seek out, discover and find" unknown lands. Though the king gave them no money it was agreed that he should receive one-fifth of the profits of their voyage! On the 2nd May, 1497, the Cabots set sail from Bristol in a little ship, the *St. Matthew*. They sailed westwards, but far to the north of the track along which Columbus had gone. At last they reached the island which is known as NEWFOUNDLAND. When Cabot returned, Henry gave him the title of Admiral and a pension of £20 a year. Henry then helped Cabot to fit out a large expedition which reached the coast of Greenland, to which was given the name of Labrador; later

this name was given to the north-east coast of Canada. We do not hear much more of Cabot, but it was through his adventurous voyages that West-country seamen got their first thrill of discovery, and that England began to build up what was to become the great Commonwealth of Nations.

Many other explorers set out to copy the voyages of Cabot and Columbus. The newly-found continent—AMERICA—was named after AMERIGO VESPUCCI, an explorer who was born in Florence in 1451. On one of his voyages he had reached the mainland of South America and had written an account of his travels. When this account was published in 1501 it was stated that Amerigo had discovered the mainland, which was then named after him. At the south of the Continent is Magellan Strait, a name which commemorates the Portuguese explorer Magellan, who first sailed into the Pacific and finally, after a difficult voyage, reached the *Spice Islands* in 1521. Here he was killed in a fight with the natives, but some of his crew actually sailed back to Europe round the south of Africa, and so were the first men to sail round the world.

PORTUGUESE EXPLORERS. We must travel back some years from the time of Magellan to see what had been done by famous Portuguese explorers. In 1486 BARTHOLOMEW DIAZ was driven by stormy winds round the southern cape of Africa. The sailors named this the *Cape of Storms*, but at the Portuguese king's command this was changed to the more inviting name of *Cape of Good Hope*. In 1498 the famous explorer VASCO DA GAMA sailed to India round the Cape. It was he who named NATAL, for he discovered this land on Christmas Day, the "natal" day or birthday of Christ. When da Gama reached India, he loaded his ships with pepper and other spices and sailed back to Portugal, to be welcomed for his great deeds.

NEW SEA ROUTES. Before the voyages of the great

explorers we have mentioned, the most important sea trade was done in Mediterranean waters. All through history the sea trade of Europe had been carried along this inland sea. Caravans came to Egypt and Constantinople from the East, and then goods from the East were loaded on to ships and taken to Italian or French ports. Venice was a most flourishing seaport. Now, however, the Mediterranean was to lose much of its importance. The Spaniards and Portuguese gained great profit from the ocean routes they had discovered. The Spaniards, too, took all the gold and silver they could plunder from the natives of Peru and Mexico, and made their nation rich and powerful.

England's turn was yet to come. The reign of Henry VII brought peace and good government. The country was getting ready to send out her men to adventure as were other nations. We shall see later how English sailors prospered in their attempts.

### EXERCISES

- 1 Draw a map of the world and show the routes taken by great explorers
- 2 Which do you think was the most important discovery?

### 3. SCHOLARS

SOME of the wisest men who ever lived were to be found amongst the *Ancient Greeks* during the five centuries before the birth of Christ. The hundred years between 500 and 400 B.C. were perhaps the most famous. There were HERODOTUS and THUCYDIDES, who taught people how to write history and make it interesting, and SOCRATES, a great thinker whose talks were written down by his equally famous pupil, PLATO. Then there were poets and playwrights like AESCHYLUS, who wrote dramas with sad endings called *tragedies*. The Romans, too, had famous poets, writers and thinkers; easily their greatest poet was VIRGIL, who was born in 70 B.C.

Somehow, war, rebellion and strife had made most men forget about this wonderful knowledge of the Greeks and Romans. Through the Dark and Middle Ages, learning was kept alive practically only in the Church. Very few people but those connected with the Church could read or write; these students, who obtained their knowledge from *Latin* texts, were most interested in writings about the *Church* and *Law*, and they boasted about this and called themselves "book men" Their studies were quite different from those of the ancient scholars, who were interested in people, animals, birds and the world in which they lived.

**THE REVIVAL OF LEARNING.** In the fourteenth century, cultivated men began again to be interested in Greek books and to desire to learn the Greek tongue so that they could read these works. This was difficult, for there were few men who could teach the language, and most of them lived in Greece or in the territory of the old Eastern Empire. But when in 1453 the Turks captured Constantinople, the scholars had to flee, and they went to Italy where they

## SCHOLARS

knew they would be welcomed. Now many men went to these refugees in order to learn Greek, and many of the old books and manuscripts were brought from Constantinople. As scholars of the West learnt Greek, they sought out old Greek books, which were to be found in the libraries of many monasteries. When men found what wonderful thoughts and ideas the old Greeks had they were amazed, and we find that some of them almost wanted to worship before busts of Plato, Socrates, and others. There was awakened a new desire for knowledge, and this was called the *renaissance* or *new birth* of learning. It is as if scholars now wanted to search for *truth* about the world around them, much in the same spirit as Columbus and other explorers were seeking out *new worlds* beyond the seas.

This new gathering of famous scholars in Italy had very great results. Not only were books studied, but wonderful artists began to paint there. Many of their paintings can still be seen in the great picture galleries of the world. RAPHAEL, TITIAN, DA VINCI, MICHELANGELO are famous names. In France, Spain, Holland and other European countries writers, poets, painters and artists were at work. Then old Roman charts of travel were found, and medical men began to study the ancient science books of the Greeks and the Romans.



ERASMUS

THE NEW LEARNING REACHES ENGLAND. The new learning came to England at last. WILLIAM GROCYN, who taught at New College, Oxford, went to Florence in 1488 to learn Greek. There he studied for two years, and on his return he gave *free* lectures in Greek at Oxford. The famous Dutch scholar, ERASMUS, came to Oxford to study Greek under Grocyn and later he himself taught Greek at

the University of Cambridge. Another famous Englishman to study Greek in Italy was LINACRE, who translated Greek medical books into Latin. JOHN COLET, born in 1467, was the son of Sir Henry Colet, who had been twice Lord Mayor of London. After John had studied at Oxford he went to Italy and studied Greek. On his return he became a clergyman, and gave a series of wonderful lectures on the Epistles of St Paul in the New Testament. When Colet was made Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, he preached to crowds who came to listen to his sermons THOMAS MORE was another of this group of learned men. He, too, had studied Greek at Oxford, and he believed, with Colet, that there were many changes that ought to be made in the way the Church was conducted. In London, at the house of THOMAS MORE, we can imagine these thinkers, Colet, Erasmus and their friends, discussing how they would alter the world in which they lived. We shall see in later chapters how they influenced life as they found it.

Of course, the new learning was able to spread much more quickly because of the great advances which had been brought about in the art of printing Books still cost a great deal of money, but they were not too costly for those who had a fair amount of wealth.

### EXERCISES

- 1 Why do you think the knowledge of the Ancient Greeks had been forgotten?
- 2 What do you think would have been the result if printing had been invented in 600 B.C.?
- 3 The scholars of the Renaissance were called *Humanists*; can you think of any reason why this name was given to them?
- 4 Why do you think the fugitive scholars from Constantinople fled to North Italy?
- 5 Why do you think Giocyn, Colet and their friends were called "the Oxford reformers"?

1509

## HENRY VIII

1547

	← Reign'd 38 years →	
Flodden 1513		
Wolsey in power		
"Balance of Power"		
Henry Head of Church—Break with Rome		
Thomas Cromwell in power		
Dissolution of monasteries		
Almost an absolute monarch	1536 Union with Wales	

## 4. A NEW KING : HENRY VIII

HENRY VII died in 1509 and was buried in the Chapel named after him in Westminster Abbey—a chapel he himself caused to be built. The heir to the throne was a young man of eighteen, who became king as Henry VIII. Everyone welcomed the new king. He had been well educated. His mother, Elizabeth, was a good woman; his grandmother was learned and pious, and both these ladies had watched over the early years of the young prince. Henry was not the first-born son. His brother Arthur would have been king had he lived, and Henry was intended to have been Archbishop of Canterbury or to have received a high office in the State. Henry was clever; he could speak Latin and understood Greek; he could read, write and speak in French, Spanish and Italian. As a boy he sang in the choir of the Chapel Royal. He could play the organ, harpsichord and lute, and composed music. When he became king he loved to have musicians about him to play and sing to him. As a young man, Henry was religious and often debated on Church affairs with his companions.

Many boys who are good scholars are not good at games, but Henry excelled in both. He was over six feet in height, was broad and muscular, and enjoyed all kinds of outdoor sport. He loved hunting and could ride long and hard, so that he tired out several horses in one day. He liked

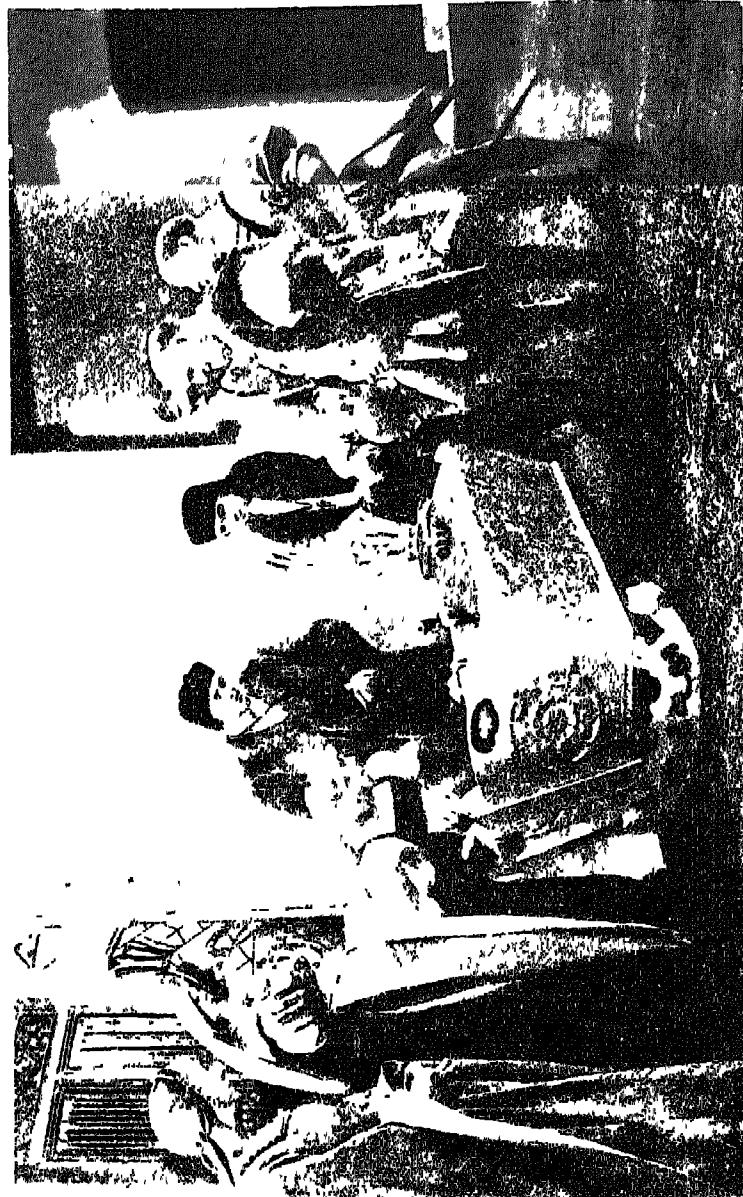
tournaments and took part in tilting bouts. Tennis, archery, wrestling and fencing were also favourite sports of his. No wonder that the English welcomed this gay, good-looking, clever young king, for their late ruler had become a miserly invalid who thought mainly about squeezing money from his subjects and hoarding it up.

Henry VIII began his reign full of promise; men thought that he was bound to be successful. But when he died after a reign of thirty-eight years, many people were not so sure that Henry had justified their hopes, though the common folk always loved him and gave him the nickname of *Bluff King Hal*.

Henry began his reign by marrying Catherine of Aragon, the widow of his brother Arthur. Catherine was a beautiful and clever woman whose father, Ferdinand of Aragon, was becoming a powerful monarch. The Moors had been driven out, and Columbus had brought wealth and riches and the lands of the New World to the Spanish king and queen. Though many people said that Henry ought not to have married his sister-in-law, the Pope permitted it, and Ferdinand, who had no son but two daughters, wished for Catherine to be queen of England.

Ferdinand immediately got Henry to take part in wars on the continent of Europe. As you will remember from the story of the Hundred Years War, France had been for many years the enemy of England. When the wars concluded, England possessed only the port of Calais. Ferdinand pointed out to Henry that France was becoming over-powerful, and Henry decided to join forces with the Emperor Maximilian to defeat France.

WAR WITH FRANCE. Henry set out for France with many ships of war. He did not sail directly to Calais but passed down the coast, firing off cannons to show the French that a conqueror was coming. Back again to Calais the fleet went, guns were fired from shore and ships to welcome



A SCENE FROM A FILM ABOUT HENRY VIII

Note the costumes Who do you think is the babe the people are watching?

*Courtesy United Artists*

the king, and then the English troops landed and marched off to besiege the town of Térouanne. There occurred the *Battle of the Spurs* in 1513, so called because the only weapons used by the French were the spurs which they drove into their horses' flanks to make them travel faster. The French had never meant to fight a battle, but they had sent the army of riders off to attract attention whilst other men dropped food for the besieged city in the moat. The retreating soldiers were unlucky to meet the English. During the battle the famous BAYARD, "the knight without fear or reproach," was captured. This brave man with fifteen followers held a bridge against a force of German soldiers, but when the English archers came up behind him he ordered his men to surrender. After the battle, Henry joked with the French who were captured and congratulated them on the speed of their horses. They replied in the same humorous manner, "Sire, it was only a battle of spurs."

FLODDEN FIELD Almost as soon as Henry left for France, the Scottish king, James IV, brother-in-law of Henry, had invaded England. The Scots and the French often assisted each other in this way. A herald took the news to Henry in France, and the king replied that he would leave the Earl of Surrey to entertain the Scottish king, and that he thought the Earl could do it quite well.

The Scottish queen was not eager for her husband to fight against England, neither were his advisers at Court, but James was determined to attack. His first adventure was only partly successful, and then James, who was popular with his parliament, got permission to raise a great army. One hundred thousand men with food for forty days were assembled and set off on the conquest of England. Castle after castle fell and James, who now saw himself as a great conqueror, began to idle his time away and not push on with the invasion. This gave the English time to gather an army. The Scots were massed in a

strong position on Flodden Hill, a spur of the Cheviots. Surrey, the English leader, knew it would be hopeless to attack the Scots there, and he crossed a river to get between



HENRY VIII

*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

James and Scotland. Now James could easily have defeated the English by firing on them as they crossed the bridge, but he refused to do so, saying that as a knight he would fight the English on the plain below. Such tactics might be correct in the lists at a tournament, but were scarcely

wise in a serious battle. James set fire to his straw huts on the hill and marched his army under cover of the smoke into the plain below. At 4 o'clock on 8th September, 1513, the battle opened. Great bravery was shown on both sides. James himself was killed leading a desperate charge, and the well-drilled English soldiers won the day. The Scots lost more than 10,000 men, amongst whom were many of the greatest lords and dukes of the country. The result of this defeat was that for many years the Scots could offer no serious threat to England.

## EXERCISES

- 1 Write a description of how you think a day in the life of the young king would be spent
- 2 Why did the Scots generally attack England when she was at war with France?
- 3 Why were James's tactics at the Battle of Flodden Field wrong?

## 5. THOMAS WOLSEY

WHEN Henry VIII sailed for Calais in 1513, he took with him a clever young man of thirty-nine named THOMAS WOLSEY. As Wolsey became one of the most powerful men in Europe, we had better see who he was, and how he had already found favour in the reign of Henry VII.



THOMAS WOLSEY

Thomas Wolsey was born in either 1474 or 1475 in the town of Ipswich. His father was a butcher, merchant and landowner, who intended his son to enter the Church. After being taught at a local school, Wolsey went to Magdalen College, Oxford, where, at the early age of fifteen, he took his degree of Bachelor of Arts. He then lectured, taught in the school attached to the College, and was appointed bursar, or treasurer, of the College. In 1497 he became a priest, and was soon after made vicar of Limington in Somerset. Here he fell into disgrace with the local squire, who is said to have put Wolsey in the stocks. Later, when in power, Wolsey avenged this insult by imprisoning the squire in his London house for some days.

Bishop Fox, one of Henry VII's ministers, took an interest in the young man, and Wolsey was appointed as one of the priests at Canterbury Cathedral and, later, chaplain to Henry VII. That king thought a great deal of Wolsey, and sent him abroad on many important missions. One story is told which shows how Wolsey did the work given to him. Henry VII sent him with an urgent message to the Emperor Maximilian. Wolsey set off at 4 p.m. from Richmond and, travelling by river-barge, arrived at Gravesend at seven o'clock in the evening. Here he

immediately secured post-horses and rode to Dover, arriving in the morning in time to take the boat to Calais. By noon he had reached Calais, and then left with fast horses, and before nightfall he had met Maximilian, who was in Flanders. The business completed, Wolsey rode post-haste back to Calais, crossed to Dover, and was at Richmond before the day was over. In the morning he waited outside Henry's bedroom. When the king came out he was angry with Wolsey for not having started on his journey "Sire," said Wolsey, "if it please Your Highness, I have already been with the Emperor and dispatched your affairs and, I hope, to your satisfaction." He then handed the king the letter of greeting from the Emperor. Henry was delighted. such quick travel was unknown in those days, and he determined to reward Wolsey's enterprise. Soon the young man was appointed Dean of Lincoln, which was a well-paid post When Henry VII died, the new king, Henry VIII, immediately began to show favour to Wolsey. He was made in turn Canon of Westminster, Almoner to the King, Registrar to the Knights of the Garter, Member of the Privy Council and a Doctor of Divinity.

All the preparations for the war which the king launched against France in 1513 were made by Wolsey, and so hard did he work at the task of arranging for ships, food, ammunition and all the stores of war, that his friends thought his health would suffer.

Whilst with the king abroad, Wolsey did not spare himself. He wrote letters for the king, helped with the conduct of the war, and sent messages to the queen, Catherine of Aragon. When Tournai fell, Wolsey, at the special request of the Pope, was created Bishop of that city. Returning to England in 1514, Wolsey was first made Bishop of Lincoln, and then Archbishop of York. Further honours came to him when the Pope made him a Cardinal and the king appointed him Lord Chancellor.

AT THE HEIGHT OF SUCCESS. By this time Wolsey was a wealthy man, and he delighted to spend his money on fine houses, plenty of servants and splendid entertainment for his guests. The gentlemen of his household were dressed in rich red velvet robes, with gold chains round their necks, while his yeomen had liveries of scarlet, edged in black. When Wolsey went forth he rode on a mule trapped in crimson velvet, gold and silver. Before him were carried two great silver crosses, two pillars of silver and a mace of silver gilt. A bare-headed noble carried the great seal of England, and another official carried the Cardinal's red hat. Footmen marched on each side to guard the procession. At Hampton Court, Wolsey gave banquets to noblemen and ambassadors that were even grander than those given by the king himself, this mansion, which he had built in 1515, he presented to his master in 1526. Naturally, many of the noblemen were jealous of the success of the brilliant Chancellor, and they were only too eager to find some way of bringing about his downfall; Wolsey was, however, at this time beyond the reach of his enemies.

Wolsey had greater plans for himself. He wanted to become Pope, and thus head of the Roman Catholic Church. Henry VIII should also become Holy Roman Emperor, and so between them they would rule the world. Wolsey knew that at this time England was not very influential in Europe and could not afford to fight wars; therefore he formed a plan to obtain his ends in a peaceful manner. This was not easy, for Henry was all for fighting and dreamt of himself becoming a hero like Edward III or Henry V.

POLITICAL PLANS. Wolsey's plan was that England should hold the BALANCE OF POWER in Europe. Imagine two men sitting at the ends of a see-saw. If a boy stood in the middle, he could weigh down whichever side he chose by moving along the plank; Wolsey wanted England

to play the part of that boy. At this time there were two powerful kings in Europe these were Francis I, king of France, and Charles V, king of Spain, ruler of the Netherlands (Holland and Belgium) and Holy Roman Emperor (and thus overlord of Austria and Germany). Wolsey managed to keep England friendly with both Henry VIII met Francis at a ceremony in northern France, called the "Field of the Cloth of Gold" because the dresses and tents were richly decorated with gold braid. Secretly Henry also received Charles, both before and after the meeting with Francis.

**WOLSEY'S FALL** Everything seemed to be prospering for Wolsey, and European rulers thought highly of the power of the Cardinal and of his country But just when his plans were nearing fruition, he fell into disgrace with the king. The quarrel arose because Henry wished to divorce his queen, Catherine of Aragon, and marry another wife Wolsey was asked to get leave from the Pope for the king to do this You will remember that the Pope had granted permission for Catherine to marry Henry Unfortunately for Wolsey, the Pope refused to agree to the divorce, and we can understand his reasons The Pope had quarrelled with Charles the Emperor, and in revenge Charles had marched on Rome and taken the Pope prisoner —and Catherine of Aragon was Charles's aunt! Obviously the Pope could not afford to offend the Emperor.

The Pope did not wish to estrange Henry either, so he ordered the case to be tried in London The Pope's representatives, of whom Wolsey was one, then adjourned the case and ordered a new trial in Rome. Henry was furious at this, blamed Wolsey, and banished him from Court. The crestfallen statesman went off to York, where he lived a simple holy life, giving up all his splendour, and hoping that Henry would send for him again and restore him to favour. This never occurred, and when the Earl of

Northumberland was sent to York it was to arrest Wolsey. The Cardinal received him in a friendly fashion, and the young duke was so fearful of the power Wolsey had once had, that he hesitated over his message. At length he plucked up courage and said, "My lord, I arrest you for high treason." Wolsey set out for London riding on a mule; at Sheffield the Constable of the Tower of London and twenty-four Yeomen of the Guard took over care of the prisoner. The Cardinal knew that this probably meant death in the Tower when he reached London. The blow was too great; he became ill, struggled on for two more days, but when he reached the Abbey of Leicester he felt he was dying. "Father Abbott," he said, "I come to leave my bones among you; give me a little earth for charity." On 30th November, 1530, the great statesman and churchman passed away. He had served his king and country well, but the king had conveniently forgotten his devotion. Shakespeare in his play of *Henry VIII* makes the great Cardinal say on his deathbed—

Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal  
I serv'd my kng, he would not in mine age  
Have left me helpless to mine enemies

### EXERCISES

1. From the story of Wolsey given in this chapter write a short account of his life
2. What do you understand by "The Balance of Power"? Give examples from history of where a small nation has held this balance
3. What were the great ambitions of Wolsey and Henry VIII?

## 6. THE REFORMATION : CHANGES IN THE CHURCH : LUTHER AND LOYOLA

We have read in an earlier chapter of this book how men of Europe were taking a greater interest in the learning of the ancient Greeks and Romans. People were beginning to ask questions about the world in which they lived—about kings and their duties and about the Church and its teachings. For long ages, rarely had anyone criticized the work of the Pope and the clergy: now there were, in increasing number, those who dared to do so.

The Church of Rome, with the Pope at its head, had existed for more than a thousand years. It had done a great work for Europe—advising kings, denouncing oppressors, and bringing comfort, help and peace to the nations of the West, it had been looked up to and loved. Rich people had bestowed lands and money upon the Church; even the poor had given what little they could afford. Money had been sent to Rome from many countries. In England “tenths” and “first-fruits” had been paid by the clergy, and the ordinary man paid “Peter’s pence” to Rome. The Church had become wealthy—and many people looked upon this wealth with jealous eyes.

Unfortunately, though the majority of Popes, bishops and priests were holy men, there were a few who did not live good and pure lives. Pope Alexander VI (d. 1503), though a good administrator, was possibly guilty of murder, Julius II, his successor, was greedy of wealth.

There were many famous men who wished to purify the Church, so that it should be a living example of the merits of its Founder. Even in the reign of Edward III, Wycliffe had preached against the wealth of the Church and the love of luxury and display among its leaders. The

great ERASMUS was anxious to reform the Church; he, however, was a peace-loving man and a scholar, and he did not wish to resist the Church's rulers.

MARTIN LUTHER, on the other hand, was a man of a very different calibre. Luther was born in 1483 at Eisleben in Saxony. His father was a peasant who had worked as a miner. The family was poor, and the young boy often knew what it was to be hungry. Luther's parents determined to give the boy a good education, and he studied at several Universities in Germany, where he often begged his bread. Martin was a religious boy, and after he had completed his studies he entered a monastery. This did not please his father. Luther was a devout friar and underwent all the penances of fasting and scourging. One day he had a sudden vision, from which, he said, he learnt that penance was not the best way to serve God.

In 1508 Luther was sent to the University of Wittenberg as a teacher. He was very successful, many students attended his classes, and thousands of people listened to the sermons he preached. At this time Pope Leo X was engaged in building the great church of St. Peter's in Rome, and he wanted a large sum of money to finish it. In order to get this, the Pope decided to grant *indulgences* to all those who would contribute to the cost of the new church. This meant that if a man had committed a sin and had confessed his guilt, the punishment for the sin in after-life would be remitted if he gave money to the Church. In 1517 Tetzel, a Dominican friar, arrived at Wittenberg to sell these indulgences. Luther was angry that the Pope should be getting money in this way, and he drew up *ninety-five propositions*, or reasons why the indulgences were wrongly granted, and nailed them to the door of the church at Wittenberg. Tetzel replied that the Pope had given his authority for the indulgences. Luther's ninety-five points were then printed, and were eagerly read

throughout Germany. The sale of indulgences fell rapidly, and a copy of Luther's propositions was sent to the Pope.

The Pope at first tried to win Luther over to his side, but in 1520, when he saw that this was useless, he excommunicated the friar, that is, Luther was turned out of the Church. When Luther received the Papal Bull which contained the excommunication, he had a bonfire made, and before a great crowd of people he burnt the Pope's message. (An order given by a Pope is called a *bull* because it bears the seal of the Pope, and the Latin word for seal is *bulla*.)

Then the Pope sent to the Emperor Charles V and told him to outlaw the would-be reformer and drive him from Germany. Charles refused to do this until Luther had had a fair trial. Luther was ordered to appear at Worms, a town on the Rhine. All his friends tried to persuade him not to go, but Luther said, "If there were as many devils in Worms as there are tiles on the roofs, I would still go." He made a great speech, and ended by saying that he would not take back one word he had said—"Here I stand, I can do nothing else, God help me. Amen."

The court found him guilty and Luther was outlawed. Out into the street he went; no one must help him, to kill him would be no crime. Luther, however, had friends, who took charge of him and carried him off to a place of safety in the castle of one of the German princes. Here he lived in disguise for a long time, spending his time in translating the Bible into German.

Many followers of Luther formed themselves into a party and founded the Lutheran Church. The Emperor Charles ordered the people of Germany to hold Catholic services, but the Lutherans protested against this order, and it was shortly after this that the name PROTESTANTS came into use for all those Christians who would not worship God in the manner prescribed by the Catholic Church. Charles

tried to force the German princes to become Catholics again, and went to war with some of them. In the end it was agreed that each kingdom in Germany should be free to choose its own form of religion.

Where formerly few men had thought of rebelling against Rome, Luther's example was now followed by other leaders. Luther did not want to make many changes in religion, but men like Zwingli and Calvin wished to set up entirely new ritual.

ZWINGLI was a Swiss, who established a Reformed Church in his native country and died fighting for religious and national freedom. His enemies mutilated his dead body, but his followers erected a stone memorial on the spot where he was killed, which bore the words. "They may kill the body, but cannot harm the soul."

JOHN CALVIN was a Frenchman who had fled from persecution and was living in Geneva. Calvin was a clever man, a statesman, scholar and author. He preached that men should live holy lives, and not devote themselves to pleasures such as dancing or card-playing. Calvin believed that each church should rule itself and that priests and bishops should be abolished. Further, he thought that the Church should do all it could to make the government of countries just and holy. Missionaries were sent into France, where they converted many to a belief in Calvin's ideas. His followers were there called HUGUENOTS. It is difficult to say how they got this name, it may have come from an old German word meaning "a comrade," or it may be connected with the French personal name "Hugues." The followers both of Luther and of Calvin were fond of singing hymns and chanting psalms, and Luther himself wrote many of these hymns.

*The Reformation*, as this breaking-away from the Catholic Church was called, had important effects throughout Europe. As we study the story of Britain, we shall

read about the adventures of *The Pilgrim Fathers*, whose religion really came from that of the Calvinists; we shall learn of the Presbyterians in Scotland and of the struggles about religion there and in England. One revolution was largely brought about because an English king believed in bishops and many of his people did not. The various forms of the Christian religion which now arose seemed to divide nations and peoples where once they had been united. But we must notice that the differences came because many people wanted to think about religious matters for themselves. It was a sign of an awakening in the minds of men.

**THE COUNTER REFORMATION** Devout Catholics thought that the Roman Church could be reformed from within, and that the evils which had grown up, such as the sale of indulgences and the scandalous behaviour of some of its members, could be remedied. Fortunately, the Popes who succeeded Leo X were wise and holy, and did a great deal to purify the Church. There was also a very remarkable man who did great service to Catholicism: this was IGNATIUS LOYOLA, a Spanish nobleman born in 1491. When old enough, he became a page at Court, and later rose to be an officer in the army. Fighting against the French in 1521, he was wounded in the legs. During the long illness which followed, he read a number of spiritual books, which decided him to give up his soldier's life and to devote his life to the service of the Church. He studied, wrote a book of "spiritual exercises," and began to preach. Then he spent seven years at the University of Paris, where he gathered loyal followers around him. In 1534 he and six companions met in the crypt of a church, and swore to help the Catholic Church, to try to convert those who rejected its teachings, and to obey the Pope before all. They wished to work amongst Mohammedans, but the Pope ordered them to preach to the Protestant sects. In 1541 Loyola founded the *Society of Jesus*. He became its first General, colleges

were set up, and trained missionaries known as *Jesuits* taught Christianity throughout the known world. The Society of Jesus did a great work for education and religion

### EXERCISES

- 1 What is meant by the word "*Reformation*"? Why is the work in which Loyola was prominent referred to as the "Counter Reformation"?
- 2 Find in what centres in England the Jesuits have worked
3. How was it that the word "*Protestants*" was applied to those who followed Luther and other reformers?
- 4 Discover what religious bodies can be called *Protestant*. Later in the book you will read of Protestants who are also called Nonconformists. Try to find how these got their name.

## 7. THE REFORMATION IN ENGLAND

At the beginning of his reign, Henry VIII and Wolsey were loyal to the Pope. We should expect this, as Wolsey wished to be Pope himself some day, while Henry was to be Emperor. In 1521 Henry wrote a book against Luther, and Pope Leo X had, as a result, bestowed upon the king the title of *Defender of the Faith*. If you look on an English com you will see either the letters "F.D" or *Fid Def.*, the first letters of the Latin words meaning "Defender of the Faith." This title the English and British sovereigns have held ever since the time of Henry VIII.

There were, however, many people in England who agreed with Luther and Calvin. They saw that while a great deal of English money was being sent to Rome, many of the clergy were unworthy of their posts. Then, again, scholars of the new learning had visited the country and taught at the Universities, spreading new ideas.

"THE MORNING STAR of the REFORMATION." Nearly two hundred years before, JOHN WYCLIFFE had lived and taught in Yorkshire. He had preached against the evils of the Church in the days of John of Gaunt, and in 1378 he began a translation of the Bible into English. He wanted men to read the Bible in their own language so that they would know how God wished them to live. His followers were called *Lollards*. Wycliffe is often called the "Morning Star of the Reformation" because he taught many of the ideas which Luther developed in later years. At the beginning of Henry's reign many Lollards were burnt at the stake, but this did not prevent those who believed in the Reformation from reading the Bible secretly.

Then came another Englishman who determined that he would translate the Bible into the common speech.

This was JOHN TYNDALE who was born in Gloucestershire, educated at Oxford and Cambridge, and became a priest in 1521. He made up his mind to translate the Bible into English, and in language as simple as possible Tyndale once told a priest, "Ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth a plough shall know more of the Scriptures than thou dost." Soon he had to flee the country. No one would print his New Testament in England, so Tyndale got this done at Cologne. Copies were smuggled into England in' bales of cloth and packages of goods. Those found reading the English Bible, however, might be cast into prison or heavily fined. Tyndale became a follower first of Luther and then of Zwingli, and in 1534 he was imprisoned by order of the Emperor Charles V and burnt at the stake as a heretic.

When Tyndale died he had not translated all of the Bible. His New Testament was finished in 1525, and he completed the Old Testament as far as the 2nd Book of Chronicles. It was Tyndale's translation that first taught Englishmen to read the Bible with understanding, and that helped later translators to produce the version we now use. A monument to Tyndale has been erected on the Cotswold Hills in Gloucestershire, and a copy of his New Testament can be seen in St. Paul's Cathedral.

So there were many reasons why changes might be expected in the Church in England, but it was the *king himself* who actually severed the English Church from the Church in Rome, and he did it not for love of religion, but to get his own way in an entirely different matter.

HENRY'S QUARREL WITH ROME. When the Pope refused to cancel his marriage with Catherine of Aragon, Henry dismissed Wolsey and took as his advisers THOMAS CROMWELL and THOMAS CRANMER. Cromwell had been one of Wolsey's assistants, and Shakespeare in his play *Henry VIII* makes Wolsey, after his fall from grace, say to Cromwell—

Seek the king,—  
That sun, I pray, may never set!—I have told him  
What, and how true thou art he will advance thee

Cranmer was a Professor at Cambridge and was in sympathy with Luther. He suggested to Henry that, instead of asking the Pope to annul the marriage, he should consult the Universities. This idea appealed to Henry, and he sent round to many of the Universities of Europe asking them what he should do. Quite a number of them replied that the marriage should be cancelled, naturally, the Spanish Universities took the opposite view.

Henry had made up his mind to please himself, whether the Pope agreed or not. He called Parliament in 1529, and began to introduce laws which should lessen the Pope's power in England. The clergy were told they must agree that Henry was "supreme head" of the English Church. Many feared to disobey. Still the Pope was unwilling to break with England, and in 1533 he agreed that Cranmer should become Archbishop of Canterbury. Then it was that Cranmer and Henry brought about the final breach with Rome. The clergy were forbidden to appeal to the Pope, they had again to affirm that Henry was Head of the English Church, and agree to the marriage of Catherine and Henry being cancelled. Henry then married Anne Boleyn, and within a year a daughter, ELIZABETH, was born, who was afterwards to become one of England's greatest rulers.

The Pope threatened to excommunicate the king, but Henry went on with his task, and in 1534 an Act was passed by the *Reformation Parliament* declaring that the Pope could no longer have any part in appointing English clergy, and that Papal Bulls could not be received. Then by the *Act of Supremacy* it was declared that the king was Supreme Head of the Church in England, and that any Englishman might be asked to swear an oath that he accepted this.

Now a great many of the clergy had disagreed with Henry, but were afraid to say anything for fear of the consequences. There were many, however, who stood up for the old faith, and of these we may mention two able, clever and pious men—Fisher and More.

JOHN FISHER, who was a clever scholar, was appointed Bishop of Rochester in 1504. He refused to recognize Henry's divorce, was imprisoned in the Tower and, when asked to take the oath to Henry as Head of the Church, refused. Henry regarded this as treason, and was further angered when the Pope made Fisher a Cardinal. On 22nd June, 1535, Fisher was beheaded on Tower Hill.

THOMAS MORE was born in 1478 in London, and as a boy went to serve in the household of Cardinal Morton, who said of him, "This child waiting here at the table, whosoever shall live to see it, will prove a marvellous man." When he grew older, More went to Oxford, and later became a lawyer. Though he never took Orders, More was a holy man and a great friend of Colet and Erasmus. In 1504 he entered Parliament, and for many years worked actively in the law and travelled abroad. In 1517 he

published *Utopia*, a book which described what he imagined would be the best and happiest land. As the title really means "Nowhere," it implies that More thought there was not much chance of his plans being realized. Princes, kings, and scholars read the book, which was in Latin, and praised it.

More's hopes rose when Henry VIII became king, for he expected that scholars would now be encouraged. The two men became great friends, and they walked and talked



SIR THOMAS MORE

in More's garden at Chelsea, the king with his arm round More's neck.

In 1529, when Wolsey was dismissed, More became Lord Chancellor of England. He served England well, and though some of the greedy noblemen hated him, yet the poor and downtrodden loved him for his fairness and charity.

More was a devout Catholic, and when Henry severed relations with Rome in 1532, More resigned his post as Chancellor. This enraged the king. He wanted the help of the man who had been his friend, but More was not to be persuaded. At last Henry decided on compulsion. A royal command in 1534 ordered More to appear at Lambeth to take the oath under the Act of Supremacy. More knew what this meant. Alone he walked to the bottom of his garden and embarked for Lambeth. For four days he was questioned, and was then ordered to be taken as prisoner to the Tower. Here, though death was near, he kept a bright and cheerful spirit. His wife wished him to take the oath, but he refused. After being kept prisoner for over a year, he was tried in Westminster Hall on 1st July, 1535, convicted of high treason, and five days later was beheaded on Tower Hill. Without wavering, he died for his faith as did Fisher; and thus Henry had silenced those who opposed him.

### EXERCISES

1. Why was Wycliffe called "The Morning Star of the Reformation"?
2. What men translated the Bible into English?
3. Give the names of some prominent Englishmen who suffered martyrdom for their faith.
4. What really caused the "breach with Rome"?
5. Why did Henry VIII cast aside Wolsey and More, and yet remain friendly with Cranmer and Cromwell?

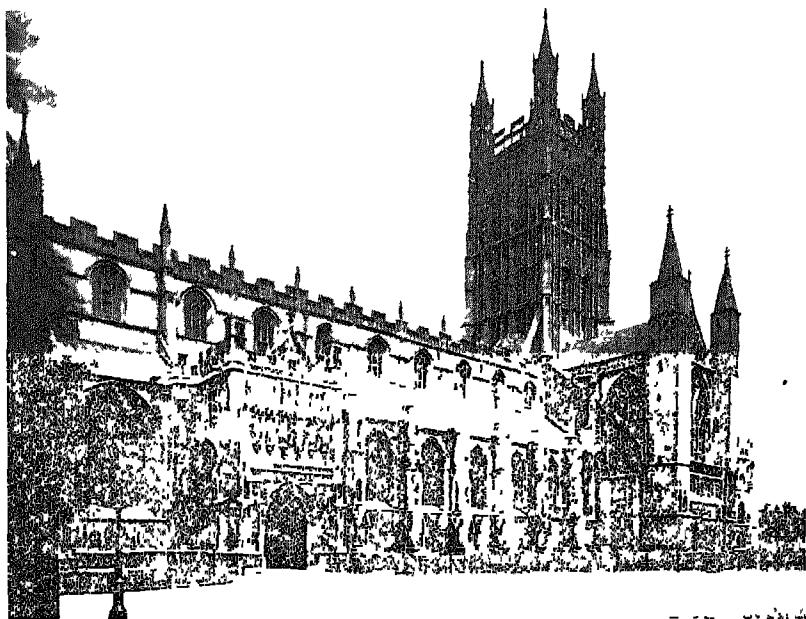


## 8. THE MONASTERIES

THE king had determined to cut off the English Church from the Church of Rome, but this was a task that raised many difficulties. Although those who would not take the oath could be put to death, there were in the land many monasteries which were, so to speak, the fortresses of the old religion. During long years of peace or of civil strife, the monasteries had kept up learning as a living thing, had fed the poor, cultivated the land, and encouraged religion. In the fifteenth century, it is true, some of them had become slack, and the monks, friars and scholars neglected their pious duties.

It was Thomas Cromwell who first suggested to the king that some of these monasteries might be put down or "suppressed." Messengers were sent round to find out how the smaller monasteries were conducted. Reports were made which stated that the religious houses were no longer properly kept up, and that the monks who lived in them were wicked and lazy. This was probably true in some cases, although certainly not in all; but as a result Parliament ordered three hundred and seventy-six of the monasteries to be pulled to the ground, and their land and wealth to be taken. Beautiful church ornaments, glorious paintings and noble buildings were destroyed. The wealth went to the king, and the lands of the monasteries were mostly distributed among highly-placed laymen, who thus became powerful while remaining friendly to the king.

In the north of England, the monasteries were more popular with the common people than in the south, for whilst the monks of the south rarely distributed alms, those in the north were kind and charitable to the poor,



Gloucester Cathedral

An abbey was established here in 681 and in 1022 a Benedictine monastery was founded, the church of which following the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII became the cathedral in 1541. Mainly Norman, the magnificent building contains the canopied shrine of Edward II.

*Courtesy British Railways*

the sick and the weary. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that men in the north determined to ask the king to spare the monasteries, and to back their demands with a display of force. In 1536 a great mass of country people collected under Robert Aske to march to London. The rising, which was called the PILGRIMAGE OF GRACE, was

put down, and Henry took his revenge by having the leaders and many of their followers hanged.

Then it was decided to suppress *all* the monasteries. Cromwell carried on the work, and more wealth came to the king. Monks and nuns were driven out and left homeless. Here is a quotation from one of the reports—

“ and found in the abbot's study secretly laid, as well a written book of arguments against the divorce of the King's Majesty, whiche we take to be a great matter, as also divers pardons, copies of bulls and the life of Thomas Becket in print . . . We have found a fair chalco of gold and divers other parcels of plate . . . We have in money £300 and above ”

It should be said that some of the money was used to set up six new bishoprics—Westminster, Oxford, Chester, Gloucester, Bristol, and Peterborough—and the monastery churches became the cathedrals. In some districts the people paid the king a sum of money so that the church of the monastery could become the parish church. To-day the ruins of old monastic churches can be seen still standing as a reminder of the destruction carried out by Cromwell's men; many other great churches vanished utterly.

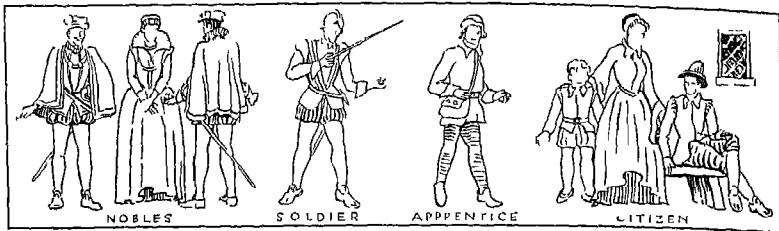
Cranmer, meanwhile, was anxious that the people of England should be able to read the Scriptures and the Church Services in their own language. In 1535, MILES COVERDALE published the first *complete* translation of the Bible into English, and in 1537 Matthew's Bible appeared; this was compiled by John Rogers from the translations of Tyndale and Coverdale. Cranmer ordered copies of this Bible to be put in all churches, and the clergy were to encourage the Bible to be read.

During the reign of Henry VIII, Cranmer also arranged that parts of the service—the Litany and a portion of the Mass—should be in English. In the next reign the Prayer Book was introduced as a complete order of public service.

in English, this was the work of Cranmer, assisted by several of the bishops. The language of the Prayer Book is beautiful, and herein we must remember our debt to Cranmer.

### EXERCISES

1. What good work had the monasteries accomplished through English history? Look up this subject in Book I.
2. What were the real reasons for the destruction of the monasteries?
3. Discover whether the churches near your school were once attached to monasteries.
4. Make a list of the most important ruins of monasteries which can still be viewed.
5. Where in England are monasteries being built to-day?



## 9. SOME OTHER CHANGES IN HENRY VIII'S REIGN

WE have seen that great changes in the national religion took place in Henry VIII's reign, but there were many other important events which we must notice.

**THE NAVY** During the Middle Ages the English had to use ordinary sailing-ships when they went to war, and these ships were converted by having a kind of fortress built both fore and aft. Henry VII and Henry VIII set about constructing proper ships of war. Henry VII established a dockyard at Portsmouth, and amongst ships built during his reign was the *Regent*, which carried four masts and was armed with 225 small guns called *serpentines*. Henry VIII had docks constructed at Woolwich and Deptford, and new designs for naval ships drawn up. Guns were placed in rows inside the ships with the muzzles pointed, through port-holes, so that a good broadside could be delivered into an enemy's vessels. There was the great *Henry Grace à Dieu*, with two lines of guns on her lower decks, and another on her half deck and forecastle; such men-of-war were formidable fighting-ships. Before England fought Spain on the sea, however, a committee of officers of state, including admirals, shipwrights and seamen, met in 1583 and designed lighter, smaller, but swifter ships of war, still capable of carrying many guns and firing damaging broadsides.

**UNION OF THE BRITISH ISLES.** The Tudors were descended from Welsh ancestors, and Henry VIII was

anxious that England and Wales should be governed as one land. Some parts of Wales were already divided into shires and counties and were under the English king; the remainder, however, was made up of nearly one hundred and fifty small districts or lordships under the *lords-marchers*. These lordships did not come under English law, and a criminal in one lordship could slip into another and so escape punishment.

Under the direction of Thomas Cromwell it was ordered in 1535 that all Wales should come under the same government as England, and by the Act of Union passed in 1536 this became law. Henceforth the language of the Courts was English. Each district sent members to the English Parliament, and the lords-marchers had no power to pardon criminals. The monasteries were suppressed and the land was given to Welsh lords. Many of the Welsh resented these changes; they loved their own language and prized their independence—but the Union of Britain was thus brought a step nearer.

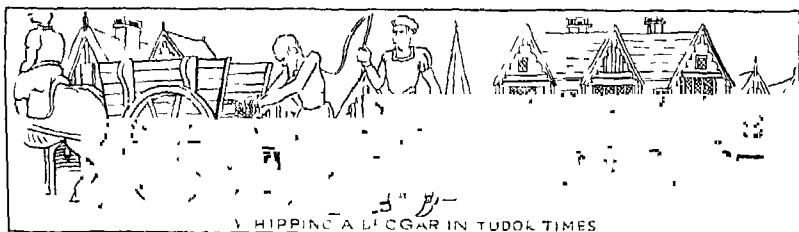
**IRELAND.** The English kings had never had much control over Ireland. The land on the east round the chief ports was under English government, but the remainder was divided, like Wales, into small areas under chieftains who ruled as they pleased. There were two powerful families in Ireland, the Butlers and the Kildares. These held power in turn, and when the Earl of Kildare was accused of ruling oppressively he was summoned to London. Henry put him in the Tower, and when it was falsely reported that the Earl was dead, his hot-tempered son declared war on Henry. As was to be expected, the rebellion was very soon put down, and the young adventurer and his five uncles were executed. Henry was proclaimed King of Ireland by an Irish Parliament, the monasteries of the country were suppressed, and Henry was named as head of the Irish Church.

Henry's further policy was wise. Instead of punishing the rebels, he made the Irish lords barons of the Crown, winning their service for himself. Thus Ireland under the rule of Henry VIII knew some of the benefits of responsible government.

**SCOTLAND** Henry desired to be King of Scotland also; the Scots, however, did not love the English, and their king, James V, allied himself with France. War broke out, and the Scottish forces were badly defeated at Solway Moss in 1542. This was a sad blow to James's pride, and he died soon afterwards.

Henry now had a plan to secure the throne of Scotland for the English sovereigns, he would arrange a marriage between his young son, Edward, and Mary, the baby daughter of James V, to whom the throne had been left. The nobles of Scotland, who were in sympathy with the Reformation and England, approved of the plan, but the Roman Catholics and their many French friends in Scotland would not hear of it. Soon war broke out, and Henry found himself at war with both France and Scotland. The union of the crowns was delayed for yet another sixty years.

**THE COMMON PEOPLE.** So far, we have dealt with wars and struggles about religion, but we must remember that all this time the mass of the people were going about their work, living in their homes and bringing up their families. How had they fared? Trade was everywhere increasing;



HIPPING A LUGGAR IN TUDOR TIMES

many people were better off than they had ever been before, and were able to wear finer clothes and to eat many more different kinds of food. Fruit was grown more abundantly, pears, cherries and gooseberries were to be had, new vegetables were cultivated. Rich people had large meals: huge joints of meat were roasted, and the dinner tables were weighed down by the quantity of food. Table manners were still not good. There were no forks; only knives and spoons were used, and usually guests had to bring their own spoons with them.

There were many poor people then. Large owners of land had begun to fence in fields which had formerly been tilled, and in these large fields sheep were now kept. Wool was valuable, and the land-owners could make big profits while employing fewer men on their estates. Thus many men were out of work. While the monasteries existed, poor men could call at the almoner's door as they passed and get a good meal for the asking. No longer was this possible. Soon Henry's Parliament passed a law forbidding begging: only those who were blind, lame or unable to work could get a beggar's licence, and these could only beg in the district in which they were born. Those who broke the law were to be punished by having their ears cut off or their nostrils slit.



MRS PEMBERTON PAINTING BY  
HANS HOLBEIN (1497-1543)

A fine example of the work of Hans Holbein, a German painter and engraver. Holbein first came to England in 1526 and painted the portraits of Sir Thomas More and his family. He also painted Thomas Cromwell and then served Henry VIII of whom he painted many portraits. Paintings by Holbein are to be found in Windsor Castle, the National Gallery, Lambeth Palace and in many of the capitals of Europe.  
*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

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they could be put to death by hanging. Many thousands of beggars met this fate in Henry's reign.

Farm workers and tradesmen worked long hours. An eight-hour day is usual now, but in Tudor times men often worked fourteen hours a day. In their spare time—such as it was—they wrestled and gamed together and practised the good old-fashioned sport of archery.

The houses of the poor were small and built close together. The floors were of clay, and there were no means of getting rid of refuse and sewage. No wonder that illness often occurred, and that frequently the dreaded *plague* visited towns and killed off thousands of the people.

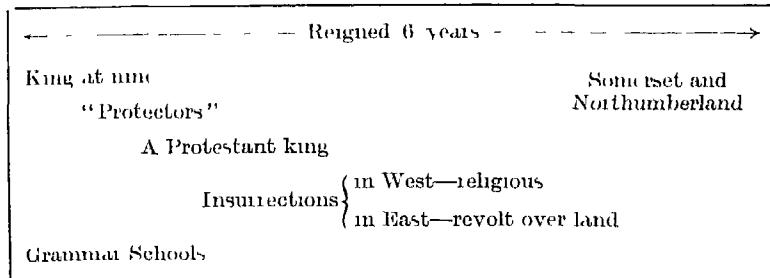
Still, the English nation was growing up. Towns were improving, more boys were being apprenticed to trades, more sailors were learning to navigate ships and to travel the world. The spirit of adventure was abroad.

### EXERCISES

1 How do you think the Navy of to-day differs from the Navy of Henry VIII's reign? What did the Navy cost the British Government last year? Where are the Government dockyards?

2 Describe Henry's adventures with the Welsh, the Scots, and the Irish

3 Why was trade improving in Henry's reign and why were better food and wages being made available for the workers?



10. THE BOY KING

IN 1547 Henry VIII died, and his little son, Edward, only nine years of age, became king. Henry had married several times and he had three children: one boy, Edward, who was now to be king, and two girls, Mary and Elizabeth, both of whom later became queens and rulers of England.

Edward when young was a healthy child, he was also precocious, since before he was six he could read, and before he was eight had written a letter in Latin to the Archbishop Cranmer. Henry VIII had all his children well educated. Perhaps Edward studied too hard as a small boy, for as he grew older he became delicate.

He was a religious boy and liked to listen to Latimer, who preached wonderful sermons. It was soon seen that the boy king was in favour of the Reformation.

THE Two "PROTECTORS." Henry VIII knew that his son would not be old enough or strong enough to rule England for many years; he therefore left plans for the country to be governed by a Council of Regency, none of whose members belonged to the old English nobility. Henry had chosen men who, he expected, would not make great changes in religion or government until Edward could take matters into his own hands. The Earl of Hertford was appointed "protector" by the other members, and was given the new title of DUKE OF SOMERSET.

Somerset was a clever and remarkable man and a strong believer in the "new learning" and the Reformation. He at once set about introducing great religious changes. Henry, though he had cut off England from obedience to the Pope, had not greatly altered the Church services. Somerset sent men round to pull down all statues, holy pictures and ornaments in churches, ordered the use of Latin in church to be stopped, and attacked the old religious practices in a way that aroused the anger of reverent people.

In his Scottish policy also he acted in a dictatorial way. He tried to force the Scots to agree to the marriage of their young queen with Edward. Henry had persuaded the Scots to agree to this at the end of his reign, but of course there was no immediate need to effect the marriage, for both king and queen were as yet children. This made no difference to the hasty Somerset; he marched an army to Scotland, and though the English won a victory at Pinkie it only made the Scots more unwilling to agree to the marriage. Mary was sent to France, where she married the Dauphin.

In 1549 the first Prayer Book of Edward VI was issued. A law called the *Act of Uniformity* was passed, ordering that the book should be used in all churches. There was much opposition to this throughout the country.

Somerset had many difficulties. His brother, Lord Seymour, plotted against him and was executed. The people of Devon and Cornwall, who disliked the new Church services, rose in insurrection. In Norfolk the farm workers, led by a tanner named Ket, rebelled because landowners were enclosing fields. Then war broke out with the French, who threatened to take Boulogne.

All these troubles made the Council think that Somerset was not so successful a Protector as he might have been. The risings were put down, but later Somerset was deposed

by the Earl of Warwick, who became Protector in his place and took the title of DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND. Three years afterwards Somerset was accused of conspiracy against Northumberland, convicted, and beheaded.

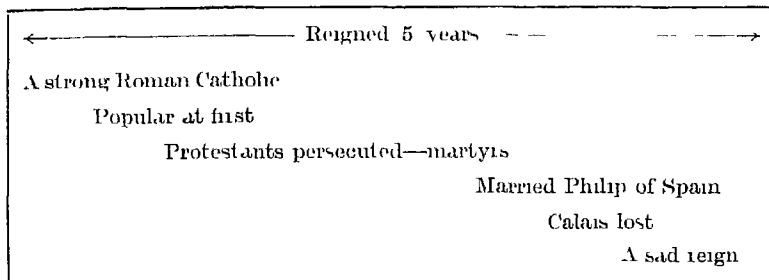
Warwick was an even more advanced reformer than Somerset. He tried to force a second Prayer Book on the country, imprisoned bishops who would not agree to it, endeavoured to force the Princess Mary, who was still a Roman Catholic, to give up her religion, and burnt a number of persons at the stake. The country seemed to be going from bad to worse; the coinage had been debased and was worth little; Boulogne had been surrendered to the French. Then the young king died at the early age of sixteen. The people of England were tired of revolutionary changes in religion and the bad government of the Protectors. By the will of Henry VIII, Mary was to be queen if Edward had no heirs. Before Edward died, however, Northumberland got him to make a will in which he declared that his cousin, LADY JANE GREY, should be queen when he was dead. The Protector had persuaded the young king that this was the best thing to do since Mary was a Roman Catholic. It is more likely that Northumberland thought he would strengthen his position, for Lady Jane Grey, a girl of sixteen, was his daughter-in-law.

The young girl did not wish to be queen, and when the news was brought to her she fainted. And, in fact, she was queen for only nine days. The people of England were weary of Northumberland, and certainly did not want to see his son king. Mary escaped to Framlingham Castle in Suffolk, where a large army gathered round her and marched to London. The leaders demanded that the Tower should be surrendered. Lady Jane asked to be allowed to go home, but the nine-days queen was not to be let off so easily. Northumberland and two other plotters were executed, and Lady Jane was imprisoned in the Tower. A

year later, when another plot against Mary was discovered, the young girl was put to death, though she had had no part in this second conspiracy.

### EXERCISES

- 1 What dangers arise from government of a country by Protectors or Regents? What kind of men do you think make the best regents? Where in Europe to-day are Regents in power?
- 2 What is the difference between a Regent and a Dictator?
- 3 Why do very violent changes in government make those who effect them unpopular?



## 11. A CATHOLIC QUEEN

MARY'S reign opened well. The people of England wanted Henry's wishes respected; he had laid down that she should be the next ruler after Edward, if the latter had no children. Therefore Mary was welcomed as queen.

Now we must remember that Mary was the daughter of Catherine of Aragon, a lady of Spain, and this largely explains the course of action which she took. Her mother had brought her up as a devout Roman Catholic. Mary had disagreed with her father, Henry VIII, about religion, she had been persecuted and forced to act as waiting-maid to her younger sister Elizabeth; yet still in her heart she clung to the old faith.

Mary was crowned queen on 1st October, 1553. She was the first Englishwoman to reign in her own right, and she fully intended at the beginning of her reign to rule wisely and well. She meant to bring back the Catholic religion to England, and if she had begun the task tactfully and advanced by gradual stages, she might have succeeded in her object, for the people wanted no more extreme reformers like Northumberland, and the new Church services were not popular.

Mary's advisers, Gardiner and Winchester, advised against sudden changes in religion, but she was eager to begin the work which she had so much at heart. Her



ARCHBISHOP CRANMER TAKEN TO THE TOWER

Cranmer hid supported July Jane Grey, and on Mary's accession he was imprisoned in the Tower  
*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

cousin, Cardinal Pole, became Papal Legate; Parliament was invited to hear Mass; and laws cancelling the divorce of Mary's mother, bringing back the old Church services and restoring the payments to Rome were passed. Most of these things were acceptable to the people, though they objected to paying money to the Pope.

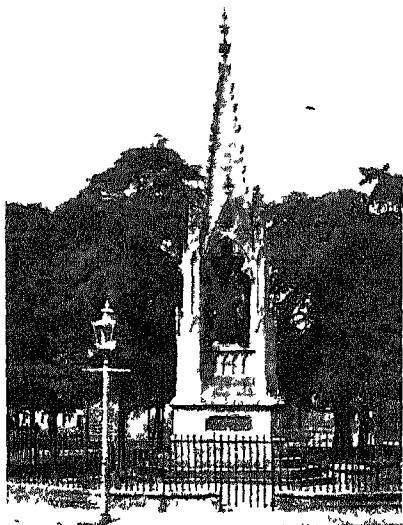
Then Mary did an unpopular thing: she announced her intention to marry Philip II of Spain. The English sailors had already begun to adventure on the high seas and were hostile to the Spaniards, who attempted to keep the trade with the newly-found continent of America entirely to themselves. It is said that when ambassadors from Spain came to arrange the marriage, boys snowballed them and the elder people refused to look at them.

Several leaders thought this a good time to begin revolts against Mary. Lady Jane Grey's father proclaimed his daughter queen in the Midlands. In the West of England it was proposed to marry Princess Elizabeth to the Earl of Devon, whom many Englishmen would have liked Mary to marry, to make her queen, and to bring back the Protestant religion. Sir Thomas Wyatt in Kent joined forces with those of the West. He had a large body of armed men and even a few ships. All three rebellions were put down, largely through the courage of Mary herself. The leaders, including Wyatt, were put to death, so was the innocent Lady Jane Grey. Some of Mary's advisers suggested that Elizabeth too should be executed, but Mary only imprisoned her, first in the Tower and later in the Palace of Woodstock. Nothing could be proved definitely against Elizabeth herself, as she explained in a verse scratched with a diamond on a window pane in one of her prisons—

"Much suspected by me—  
Nothing proved can be,"  
Quoth Elizabeth, prisoner

She was released at Christmas, 1554, and came back to Court.

Mary had been married to Philip at Winchester in July. She was eleven years older than her husband. Naturally a large number of Spaniards came over with Philip and lived at the Court. From this time the persecution of the reformers began. Those who denied the truth of the old religion were called *heretics*.



BISHOP HOOVER'S STATUE,  
GLOUCESTER

Hooper was Bishop of Gloucester but was deposed by Queen Mary and burnt at Gloucester as a heretic 9th Feb., 1555

*Courtesy British Railways*

Rogers, one of the clergy at St. Paul's Cathedral. On 4th February, 1555, he was burnt at Smithfield. Soon after the same fate befell other brave and righteous men, amongst whom were Bishop Hooper of Gloucester, Latimer, Ridley, as well as the famous Cranmer, who were burnt at Oxford. Latimer and Ridley perished in the same fire, encouraging each other to bear the pains of death without a murmur. Latimer exclaimed, "Be of good courage, Master Ridley,

In these times, many thought that if a man did not accept the religion of his country he should suffer death, lest he persuade others to think as he. Also, if the manner of death were painful it would prevent others from changing their religion. Thus we come to the very cruel practice of burning heretics at the stake. The first man to suffer for his religion in this way in England was John

and play the man, we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England as I trust shall never be put out"—meaning that their example would encourage people to hold to their beliefs more firmly. Cranmer, on being condemned to a like fate, offered to recant, and was taken to St Mary's Church, Oxford, in order to do so. To the surprise of all, at the last moment he retracted, and said that as his right hand had signed the document of recantation it should be burnt first. His persecutors hustled him to the stake, and there he died bravely. Nearly three hundred people were burnt at the stake for their faith, and many hundreds were cast into prison or tortured.

The result of this persecution was that Mary became very unpopular. People began to fear her and her religion, and to detest the Spaniards, who had served their heresies thus for many years, even Roman Catholics were horror-stricken, and the Protestants were confirmed in their opinions by the example of those who suffered.

Mary's last years were unhappy. She loved her husband, but he did not seem fond of her and left England for Spain, never to return. He had spent English money, dragged England into war with France, and had lost Calais, which had belonged to England for two hundred years. Then Mary, who was childless, fell ill with a disease which no doctor could cure, and after a reign marked by sorrow, persecution and misery, she died in 1558. She was buried in Westminster Abbey, clothed in the garb of a nun.

### EXERCISES

- 1 Why were Englishmen and Spaniards sworn foes?
- 2 How do you think Mary might have acted in order to keep the love of her subjects?

	Reigned 45 years	
Parents Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn		
Church of England supreme		
Mary Queen of Scots executed, 1587		
Sea-dogs of Britain active		Raleigh in Virginia, 1587
	Spanish Armada, 1588	
East India Company Charter, 1600		
Poor Law established, 1601		

## 12. ELIZABETH AND MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

ELIZABETH, the daughter of Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn, was living at Hatfield when Mary died. At once the leaders of the Court and Parliament went to her. The Houses of Parliament shouted "Long live Queen Elizabeth!" Another woman was to reign over England. What was to be the result?

She had been brought up to bear hardship. When she was only a year old her mother had been beheaded, and during the whole of her childhood there were many who bore her little affection. As a girl she was very well educated; she could read Greek and write Latin and speak both French and Italian. She loved to read the old Greek books. When asked why it was she could learn so easily she said that, at Court, people were unkind to her, but that her schoolmaster "teacheth me so gently, so pleasantly" that the time went very quickly. Whilst her step-brother Edward VI reigned, Elizabeth had a happy life, but, as you have read, she was in great trouble in Mary's reign, being imprisoned in the Tower.

People wondered what Elizabeth would do about religion when she came to the throne. She was, of course, a Protestant. As the queen came from Hatfield to London she was met by some of the clergy; she welcomed them all

except the Bishop of London, who had been one of the greatest persecutors of the Protestants. As she entered the Tower she said, "Some princes come here to be prisoners,



QUEEN ELIZABETH

*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

but I who have been a prisoner here now come as a prince, for which I thank God."

From the start of her reign Elizabeth showed that she intended to be a queen in fact and the real ruler of her people, but she had sense enough to choose wise men to help her. Both Elizabeth and her first minister, William

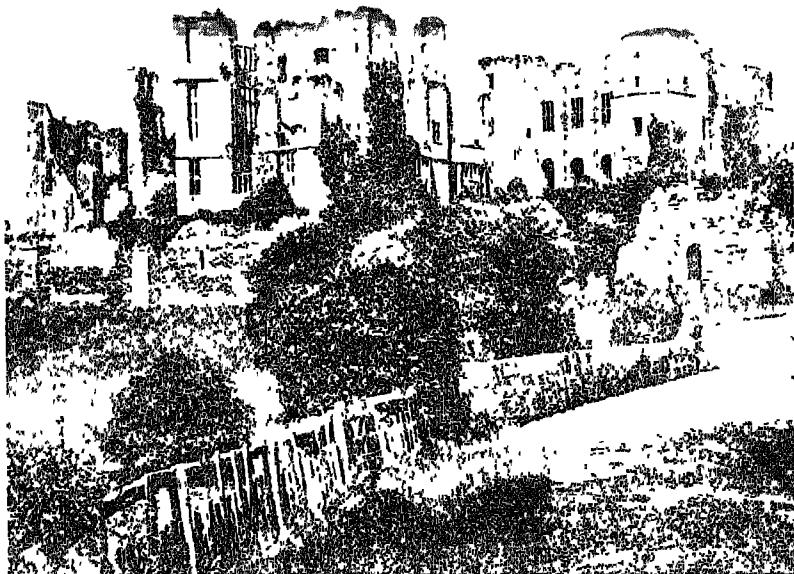
Cecil, Lord Burleigh, knew that England needed peace at home and abroad in order to become rich and powerful again.

There were four problems which had to be settled by Elizabeth at the beginning of her reign, or arose during its course. These were—

- (1) The problem of religion.
- (2) The problem of Scotland and Mary Queen of Scots.
- (3) The marriage question.
- (4) The problem of Spain.

(1) THE PROBLEM OF RELIGION. Elizabeth made up her mind that the Pope's power over the English Church, which her father, Henry VIII, had abolished but which Mary had restored, should be abolished again. In 1559 a new Act of Supremacy was passed, and by this Act the Queen became not *Head* of the Church, but *Supreme Governor* of the Church. This is an interesting difference which you may like to think about; a great deal of Henry VIII's troubles had been caused because he had called himself Head of the Church. Then, in the same year, an Act of Uniformity was passed by which it was ordered that services in all churches should be alike and taken from the Prayer Books of Edward VI. By the same Act it was ordered that "every person . . . having no lawful or reasonable excuse" shall "resort to their parish church or chapel . . . and there to abide orderly and soberly during the time of Common Prayer." It was also ordered that those staying away should be fined 12 pence for every such offence. What Elizabeth had in mind was the ideal of a united England, and she tried to establish a church that would suit all kinds of people. So she chose the middle way, for though the Pope was to have no authority, yet she permitted ornaments in churches and allowed the services to be very similar to those of the Church of Rome.

This settlement did not suit the Roman Catholics. Elizabeth would have left them in peace if some of them had not hatched conspiracies to get Philip of Spain to dethrone her, and if the Jesuits had not come preaching



KENILWORTH CASTLE

Castle founded 1115, added to by Henry II, John, and Henry III. Once belonged to Simon de Montfort. John of Gaunt added to castle. Given by Queen Elizabeth to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. She visited the castle in 1506, 1508, 1572, and 1575.

*Courtesy British Railways*

against the English Church. So it was that the Roman Catholics were persecuted later in the reign, as were some of the Protestants who did not believe in bishops. Elizabeth did not like these Puritan reformers who wanted to do away with music, surplices and ornaments in the churches, and to abolish the sign of the Cross and other practices.

When in 1565, Archbishop Parker ordered all clergy to

wear surplices, some refused to do so, and these were thrown out of their livings. One of the leaders of these clergy was ROBERT BROWN, who taught that each congregation should make its own rules. His followers were called "Brownists," and it was from these early leaders that the Congregational Church developed. To-day each congregation following

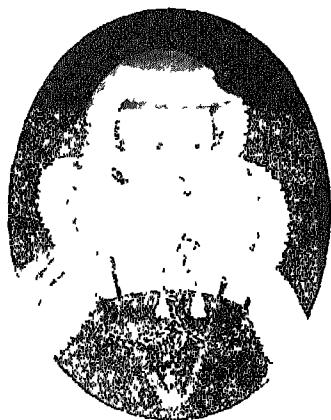
this belief has the power to appoint its own minister and to rule its own church.

(2) MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS. You will remember that a daughter was born to James V of Scotland a few days before he died, and that later Somerset had tried to arrange a marriage between this girl, Mary, and Edward VI, but the Scots sent Mary to France, where she was brought up at the French Court. Mary's mother was Mary of Guise, a pious Frenchwoman and a loyal Roman Catholic. During the time that her daughter was growing up, Mary of Guise acted as

ALLEGED TO REPRESENT  
MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS  
Artist Thos. Roth (1803-1828)  
*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

Regent of Scotland and gave all the best posts to Frenchmen. The girl became a beautiful young woman, and when she was sixteen was married to the Dauphin of France (that is, to the heir to the French throne). The next year, 1559, the Dauphin became king of France, and thus Mary could claim to be queen of France as well as queen of Scotland.

However, in a very few months Mary's husband died and she left France, a young widow of nineteen, to rule over Scotland. Elizabeth regarded Mary with distrust, for in some ways Mary was really heir to the throne of England, and when she asked for a free passage across



England, Elizabeth refused. So the young queen went by sea.

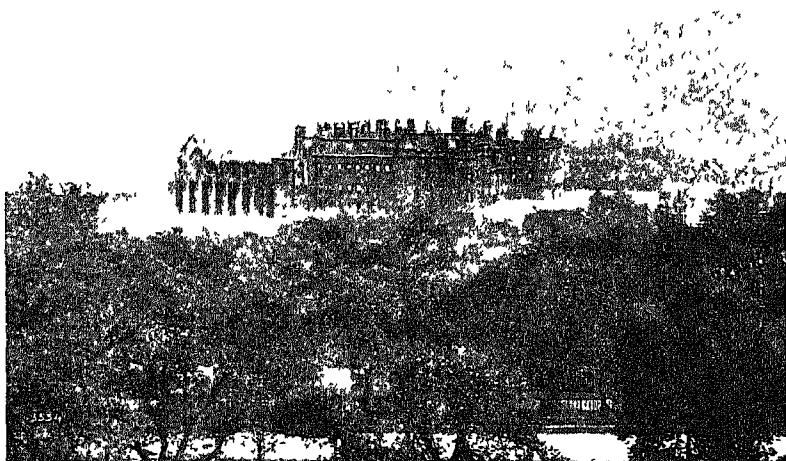
Now there were strange events afoot in Scotland. The country had rapidly become Protestant—largely through the influence of JOHN KNOX. He knew what it meant to be persecuted and had been sentenced to the galleys for his beliefs. The Scots were so against him that he lived in England during Edward VI's reign and then travelled to Geneva, where he became a disciple of Calvin. Later he secretly returned to Scotland, then began to preach openly and to establish churches according to the beliefs of Calvin. Scotland was thus divided into two parties, one in favour of the Roman Catholic religion and friendship with France, the other strictly Protestant and hoping for friendship with Elizabeth.

Mary herself had come back from France a keen Catholic and a firm believer in the alliance with France, and therefore found many Scots opposed to her. John Knox thought that women ought not to govern countries, and when he found women ruling in France, England, and Scotland, he wrote a tract called *The First Blast of the Trumpet against the Monstrous Regiment of Women*. Mary came to like this stern, short man with the flashing eyes and long beard, she had several conversations with him and tried to win his sympathy, but this she was unable to do. The preacher could not be turned from his mission.

The young queen, however, succeeded well for some time. She was a brave and plucky woman, and said on more than one occasion that she wished she had been a man so that she might put on armour and go out to war.

In 1565, however, she gravely displeased the Scots by marrying her cousin, Lord Darnley, a young man of twenty, vain, proud and weak, and fonder of games and riding than of attending to his estates—far less of ruling a country. Mary married him because he was a Catholic and had som.

claim to the English throne. The Protestants of Scotland opposed the marriage. Elizabeth opposed it, and most of



PALACE OF HOLYROOD HOUSE EDINBURGH

Built in 1498-1503 by James IV of Scotland, burnt 1650, restored by Cromwell, and rebuilt by Charles II. The apartments belonging to Mary Queen of Scots can be seen. Here Rizzio was murdered.

*Courtesy British Railways*

the nobles of Scotland were similarly against it. But Mary was not to be deterred, and the marriage took place.

The new king was king in name only. Mary meant to rule herself, and she was helped by a clever young Italian named Rizzio. Darnley, however, was jealous of this foreigner and plotted against him with some of his friends. In 1566 he entered Holyrood Palace at the head of a band of armed men who found Rizzio with the queen, and murdered him.

Mary determined to get her revenge. She no longer loved her husband, although they seemed to be reconciled. Shortly afterwards a son was born to her, and he was named James (afterwards James I of England).

Now another man wished to marry Mary. He was the Earl of Bothwell, a rough, fierce fighter who had often been in skirmishes on the Border, and would use any means to get his own way. At this time Darnley was suffering from small-pox and was living in a house away from the Palace. One night an explosion took place; the house was blown to pieces and the dead body of Darnley was found in the garden. People said that Bothwell had arranged the murder and that Mary also knew of the plot. Nothing could be proved, some letters taken from one of Bothwell's men, and now known as the *Casket Letters*, seemed to show that Mary had written to Bothwell with knowledge of the affair, but the letters were possibly forgeries. Bothwell then went out with a large body of retainers, met the queen as she returned from Stirling, and kidnapped her. Soon after, she and Bothwell were married. Immediately the Scots were up in arms against this marriage. Troops were sent against Bothwell and the queen. Bothwell escaped to Norway and later to Denmark, where he died after many years' imprisonment, and Mary was shut up in Loch Leven castle, from which she escaped by stealing the keys. When another army was sent against her, she fled to England and implored Elizabeth to protect her.

Elizabeth now had a problem which was difficult to solve—what should she do with her royal captive? But Elizabeth was clever and her answer was "Nothing." She decided to allow Mary to stay in England as a semi-prisoner, going from castle to castle. England was not yet strong enough to face foreign foes, and trouble would be caused if Elizabeth befriended Mary or allowed her to leave the

country for France. Trouble was equally certain if she sent her back to Scotland or put her to death.

So for nineteen years Mary remained in England. The great enemy of England was Spain. But, as long as Mary was alive, Philip of Spain knew that to defeat Elizabeth might mean that Mary would be queen, and that France would become more powerful.

(3) **THE MARRIAGE QUESTION.** We have seen how Mary had been married. But what of Elizabeth herself? If she should marry and have a son the nation would recognize him as the heir to the throne. And there were many princes who would gladly have married her. Philip of Spain, for example, the widower of her sister, Mary, thought that by marrying Elizabeth he would keep England true to the Catholic religion, and prevent Mary of Scots from having the throne. Neither Elizabeth nor the English wanted Philip; but England could not afford to offend Spain yet. So Elizabeth kept putting him off, but allowed him to hope that she might marry him some day. When, tired of waiting, Philip married the French king's daughter, other royal persons wooed her. Among these were the son of the Swedish king, and the Archduke Charles, son of the Emperor of Germany, both of whom she kept waiting for an answer. Some of her own noblemen too were spoken of as suitors for her hand. Year after year Parliament wondered—and sometimes feared—whom she might marry. Elizabeth herself had probably made up her mind not to marry at all, but she knew that many countries would still be friendly whilst there was a chance that one of their princes might be the husband of Elizabeth of England. Thus she found another way to keep peace.

Slowly but surely, however, events were moving towards war with Spain. The Roman Catholics in the country were becoming more powerful under the influence of the Jesuit preachers. Several risings took place in the north of

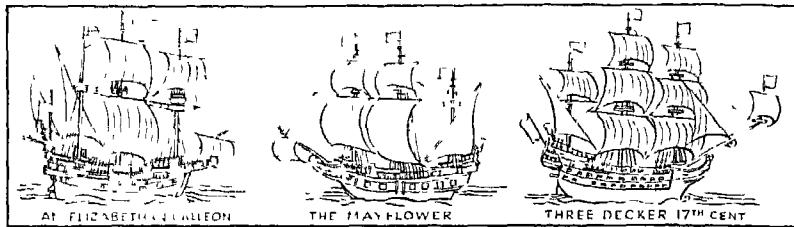
England, mainly with the idea of supporting Mary as heir to the English throne. Then the Pope excommunicated Elizabeth, who replied by persecuting the Catholics. On the Continent the Protestants of Flanders were being persecuted by Philip II, and in 1572, under the leadership of William the Silent, they fought for their religious liberty. William had been brought up as a Roman Catholic, but later changed his faith. Philip put a price on the head of William, and on 10th July, 1584, he was murdered. Elizabeth then allowed English troops to go to Flanders to help the Protestants. It was in this campaign that Sir Philip Sidney, the soldier poet, was killed.

Two serious plots against Elizabeth then were discovered—Throgmorton's Plot and Babington's Plot, both aimed at killing her and putting Mary on the throne. Parliament then demanded that Mary should be executed. Elizabeth was unwilling to agree to this, but at last she consented, and on 8th February, 1587, Mary was beheaded. War with Spain was now inevitable.

Before describing the events of the great struggle which followed, it will be well to trace how the rivalry with Spain at sea had been steadily coming to a head.

### EXERCISES

- 1 Find in what way Mary Queen of Scots was related to Henry VIII. Why could she claim a right to the English throne?
- 2 Why was Mary Queen of Scots sympathetic with the French point of view?
- 3 John Knox wrote a book called "The First Blast of the Trumpet against the Monstrous Regiment of Women" Why do you think he wrote it?
- 4 Why did the Scotch people turn against their queen?
- 5 Why did Queen Elizabeth look upon Mary Queen of Scots as her enemy?
- 6 Do you think Elizabeth was right or wrong in having Mary put to death? Give reasons for your answer.

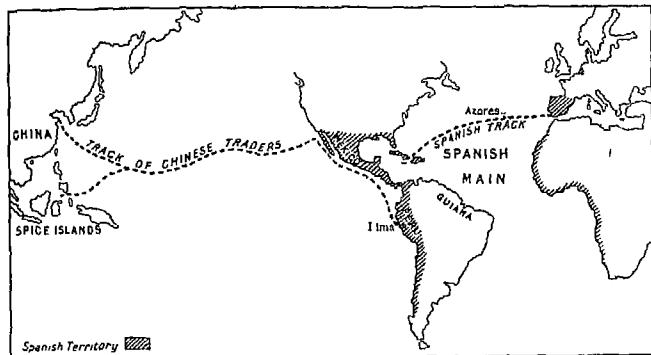


### 13. SEAMEN

The earliest voyagers from Southern Europe to sail across the Atlantic were Italians, Portuguese, and Spaniards. The journeys of Columbus had marked out America for Spain. It is true that Cabot, with the help of a little of Henry VII's money, had discovered Newfoundland for England, but in 1493 the Pope had drawn a line down a map of the world passing through what is now Brazil, and he had granted all lands west of the line to Spain, and all those on the east to Portugal. So Spain took all but the easternmost portion of America, while Portugal staked her claim to the East Indies, to Africa and all newly discovered lands there, and later to Brazil.

The number of English adventurers increased in the reigns of the early Tudors, they were learning how to build boats, make maps, navigate ships, and voyage into unknown seas. But where could they sail or land with Portugal and Spain claiming so much territory? Some entered the Turkish seas and fought battles against the Mohammedans and Persians; others made hazardous voyages in search of a North-east Passage, but only reached the shores of Northern Asia. Finally, English seamen determined to ignore the Papal decree and to get their share of the treasures of America, even if they had to fight the Spaniards for it. Some English sailors fell into the hands of the Inquisition, a body of men who tried and condemned to horrible torture those who were not Roman Catholics. The fate of their compatriots made the English sailors hate the

Spaniards still more, and increased their religious feeling. Many Englishmen became pirates as well as traders and lay in wait for the huge treasure-ships which came sailing to Spain with the gold and silver of the Incas of Central America. Mary of England did not like these men, but Elizabeth secretly



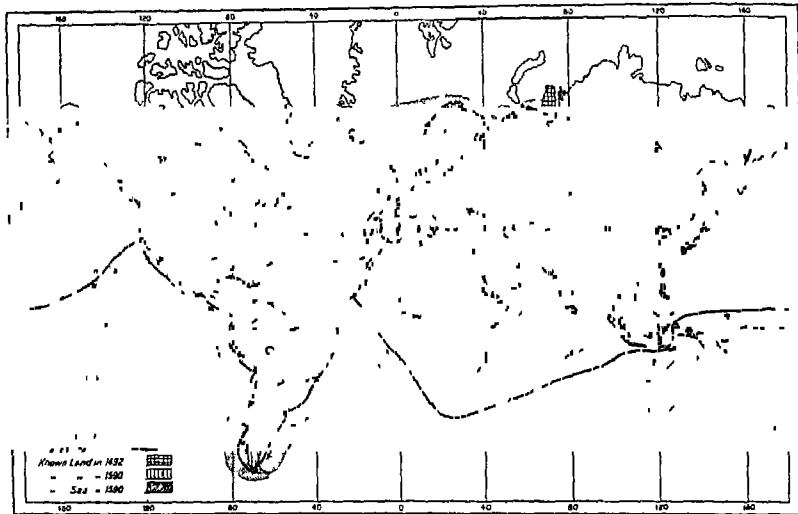
THE SPANISH MAIN

encouraged them from the very beginning of her reign, though she dared not favour them openly, for Philip would then have had good cause to pick a quarrel with England.

In order to encourage her seamen to cross the Atlantic and secure fish from the Banks of Newfoundland and to learn the art of navigation, Elizabeth had an Act passed ordering an extra fish-day in each week, when no meat should be eaten. Here are the words of the Act—

And for increase of provision of fish by the more usual and common eating thereof, be it further enacted That from the feast of *St Michael* the Archangel in the year of our Lord 1564, every Wednesday in every week throughout the whole year, which heretofore hath not by the laws or custome of this realm been used and observed as a fish-day shall be hereafter observed and kept. It shall not be lawful to any person or persons within this realm to eat any flesh upon any days now usually observed as fish-days, or upon any Wednesday now newly limited to be observed as a fish-day

JOHN HAWKINS was a sailor who became famous as a pirate and slave-trader. He was born in 1532 at Plymouth and spent his early manhood in making trips to the Canary Islands. In 1562 he sailed to the west coast of Africa where he landed and captured three hundred negroes whom he



THE KNOWN WORLD IN 1590

took to the Gulf of Mexico and sold as slaves to the Spaniards. In 1564, commanding the *Jesus* of Lubeck and three other vessels, Hawkins secured slaves and again sold them, but not so easily. Another voyage for the same purpose took place in 1567, when one of the ships was commanded by Francis Drake. On this occasion the English sailors were treacherously fired upon by the Spanish fleet. Some of Hawkins' ships were captured, the crews were massacred, and his treasure lost. Hawkins, Drake and some of the others managed to escape and reached Devon after a voyage of many hardships. It is said that Queen Elizabeth herself received some of the profits of Hawkins' voyages. The English, let it be noted, had

not started the slave traffic—that was the work of Portuguese.

The course of events determined Drake to go out and fight the Spaniards and share the wealth of the New World, rather than get rich by selling slaves. In 1572 he sailed for Nombre de Dios, a Spanish town on the Atlantic side of Panama where all the treasure was brought to be laden on to the Spanish galleons. He had two ships, and his crews numbered in all about seventy. The Spaniards were not expecting an attack and the raid was completely successful, for Drake found the royal treasure-house from which he took a great deal of silver and gold. Then he climbed up on the hills above, from which he had a view of the Pacific Ocean for the first time. He prayed "Almighty God grant me life and leave to sail an English ship upon that sea." Before returning to England he captured a Spanish mule-train bringing treasure to the coast, and again seized valuable plunder. When his ship sailed into Plymouth harbour on Sunday, 9th August, 1573, the news quickly ran round the people at church, and most of them rushed out at once to welcome him home. You can imagine how they would gaze at his treasures and listen to the stories he had to tell.

On 15th November, 1577, Drake set sail on an expedition which is still famous. He had five ships, all of them small, and set off for the Pacific. His own ship, the *Pelican*, was well fitted out, and silver plate and dishes, probably captured from the Spaniards, were used at table. Doctors and a clergyman were in the ships' companies, and even a few musicians. The small fleet sailed across the Atlantic, capturing a Portuguese ship; they then sailed south. Trouble in many forms came to them for two ships were lost, one breaking up, and Doughty, one of the captains, was tried and executed for trying to stir up mutiny.

With three ships left, Drake began the hazardous

journey through the Magellan Straits, but before starting he renamed his own ship the *Golden Hind*. For three weeks



DRAKE LOOKS UPON THE PACIFIC  
(from the film "Drake of England")  
*Courtesy A.B.C. Ltd*

the ships threaded their way through the dangerous straits—and at last Englishmen were sailing on the Pacific. It did not prove a "peaceful" ocean, for before many days

one ship had been wrecked and another had turned back, only Drake's ship, the *Golden Hind*, remained.

On went Drake, plundering and attacking Spaniards as he went, and filling the hold of his ship with treasure. He landed on the coast of what is now called California, and tried to find a north-east passage to sail round America. Failing in this, he sailed westwards to the Spice Islands, and then, still sailing west, rounded Africa into known waters, finally to arrive in Plymouth Sound on 26th September, 1580. It is said that the treasure he brought home was worth more than a million pounds. The Spaniards demanded that Drake should be punished; Elizabeth's answer was to knight him. Drake well deserved the honour, for he was the first Englishman to sail round the world, and he had proved that English sailors were equal to, if not better than, the Spaniards.

Elizabeth knew now that war was ahead, and she wished to encourage her seamen. England had many great sea captains at this time, among them Frobisher, Raleigh, Gilbert, Davis, Howard, Hawkins and Drake. Before many years were out, their leadership was to be needed.

### EXERCISES

1. Show how Spain and Portugal became the greatest owners of land in America. Discover how these possessions were largely lost.

2. Draw a map of South America and mark in the "Pope's line." Then discover which languages are spoken in South America to-day and why.

3. "Practice makes perfect" is an old English proverb. Show how Englishmen learnt the art of seamanship.

4. Look up the lives of the seamen named at the end of this chapter and write a short account of each.



FRANCIS DRAKE

## 14. WAR WITH SPAIN

### (4) THE GREAT ARMADA

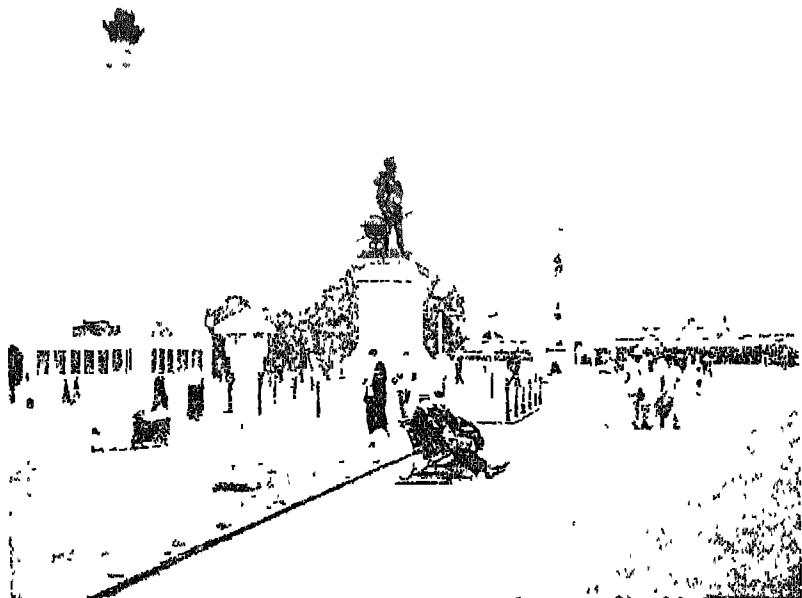
PHILIP was almost ready to declare war on England. The Low Countries were being beaten. Queen Mary of Scotland was dead and had passed her "rights" to the throne of England on to Philip. A great fleet of ships to carry troops and munitions against England was almost completed. This great "Armada" was to bring England to her knees and destroy the Protestant religion.

In 1586 war was declared, and immediately Drake and his sea-dogs became busy. The King of Spain should have no rest. Following two raids into the New World in 1585 and 1586, Drake took four of the new light warships of England down to Cadiz harbour, where the Armada was being built. In a lightning attack, ships and stores were destroyed, and then fireships were sent amongst the enemy fleet to cause further destruction. Drake said he had "singed the King of Spain's beard", at any rate, the daring raid perturbed the Spaniards and delayed the start of the Armada.

England was thus able to make more preparations. She had only some thirty up-to-date battleships, but this small navy was very efficient. Merchants and lords fitted out other ships at their own expense, so that finally the English admiral had nearly two hundred vessels under his command, and about fifteen thousand seamen. Arrangements were made, too, to raise an army to repel invaders if they landed, but as Sir Walter Raleigh tried to make plain—the best defence of England was on the sea.

The greater part of the English fleet waited at Plymouth. Others watched near Dover to see that the Spanish troops in the Netherlands did not get across. Flemish and Dutch sailors also assisted in this work.

At length Philip was ready, and on 30th May, 1588, the Armada sailed from the Tagus—one hundred and thirty large ships with 30,000 sailors, soldiers, and priests. The leader was the Duke of Medina Sidonia, a soldier who, against his will, had been persuaded by Philip to take the



PLYMOUTH HOE WITH STATUE OF DRAKE WAR MEMORIAL (1914-18)  
IN BACKGROUND  
*Courtesy British Railways*

command. (Santa Cruz, who was to have led the expedition, had died.) Sidonia had instructions to sail up Channel and to pick up the Duke of Parma's troops and convey them to England. He was not to fight the English fleet.

On the other hand the work of the English fleet was to stop the Armada, fight it, and render it useless so that it could not carry troops to England. A small ship sped into Plymouth harbour on 19th July, 1588, while Drake

was playing bowls on the Hoe, with the great news that the Armada was in sight. Immediately messengers rode post haste to London, the first beacon fires were lit, and soon from north to south, and from east to west, England knew that the Spaniards were at hand.

The English leaders, Drake, Frobisher and Lord Howard of Effingham, boarded their ships without hurry, and at nightfall sailed their fleet across the van of the Spaniards, coming up in their rear when daylight broke. The wind was behind the Armada so that the large clumsy Spanish ships had to keep on their course, whilst the smaller English vessels could tack, advance, pass their opponents and return. As they passed the Spanish galleons, the English gunners poured out destructive broadsides. The Spaniards did not like this method of fighting; they liked to grapple an enemy ship to themselves, then board her and fight a miniature land battle at sea. The new English navy was not built for this kind of warfare, and English seamen had discovered one of the first principles of sea fighting.

Soon a Spanish vessel was captured. It was the *Rosario*, a fine ship, but, better still, there was a large quantity of gunpowder aboard which would serve the English well. Then a large Spanish flagship blew up. On went the Armada up the Channel, harried and pursued by the elusive English. Then Sidonia determined to make for the shelter of Calais roads, there to wait till the Duke of Parma's troops were ready.

The roadstead was not very safe, for strong currents swept through it. Stores and fresh water were obtained for the fleet. Meanwhile the English made plans to get the Spanish fleet out again. Eight fireships were prepared, and in the dead of night these were drifted in on the tide amongst the Spanish vessels. The Spaniards remembered the way Drake had "singed the King of Spain's beard" at Cadiz. They became unnerved. Orders were given for

the Spanish fleet to put to sea at once. Anchor cables were cut and out the ships went. Panic-stricken, some collided with others. In the morning the Spanish commander realized that he had acted unwisely and ordered the ships back. It was too late. The fleet was scattered, anchors had been cast away, there was nothing left but to sail northwards up the North Sea. The English ships followed, attacking and destroying. Some of the Spanish leaders wished to halt and fight, but Sidonia would not do this. Slowly northwards the remnants of the crippled Armada sailed: the English could no longer attack, for ammunition and stores were used up, the queen, miserly as her grandfather, Henry VII, had not supplied enough. After passing the Forth estuary, the Invincible Armada was left to its fate.

On the terrible journey round Scotland and Ireland, storm and tempest harried the Spaniards. Great ships were destroyed on Scottish reefs, others were wrecked on the coasts of Ireland. Only sixty-five of the hundred and thirty vessels which had started limped back to Spain. Twenty thousand of the crew and soldiers aboard had lost their lives and nine thousand alone returned. Sidonia was disgraced; Philip had failed to humble his enemy. The victory had won for England the freedom of the seas.

### EXERCISES

- 1 Why did the Spaniards wish to fight on land rather than on sea?
- 2 Draw a map to illustrate the course of the Armada.
- 3 How did the weather assist the English?
- 4 Discover from your books as many instances as you can of sea fights in the Channel

## 15. MORE SEA ADVENTURES

ENGLISHMEN still adventured on the seas. They often met and fought Spanish ships, never doubting that they would be successful.

One such occasion is famous. In 1591 sixteen English ships went to the Azores to await the return of the Spanish galleons bringing treasure from the Americas. Drake was not there. Howard was Admiral and RICHARD GRENVILLE, Raleigh's cousin, was second in command. A new fleet of Spanish ships, which Philip had built, set out to capture the English squadron, which was in port, as many of the English sailors were sick of scurvy, a disease caused by lack of fresh vegetables. Howard decided it would be unwise to fight and so put to sea, but Grenville with his ship, the *Revenge*, delayed—probably because he had not put all his sick men aboard. When ready to sail, Grenville attempted to dash through the Spanish ships, but was soon surrounded and could not catch wind enough to escape. He refused to surrender and determined at all costs to fight the fifteen Spanish ships single-handed. Tennyson describes the fight in his poem “The Revenge.” For nearly fifteen hours the great ships of Spain were kept at bay. The English had lost many men, Grenville was mortally wounded, the powder was gone, the masts broken down, but rather than surrender, Grenville ordered his master gunner to sink the ship.

Sink me the ship, Master Gunner—sink her and split her in twain!  
Fall into the hands of God, not into the hands of Spain!

The crew would not agree to this “ . . . and they yielded to the foe.” Grenville was carried aboard the Spanish flagship, where he died, his enemies praising his courage and bravery.

Both Drake and Hawkins also lost their lives whilst away fighting against the Spaniards. They had taken an expedition to the West Indies, but the enemy was prepared and the two famous cousins were not very successful. Hawkins died off Porto Rico and some weeks later on the 28th of January, 1596, Drake himself became ill with dysentery and died. This great Englishman was buried at sea—a fitting resting-place for the hero of so many sea fights.

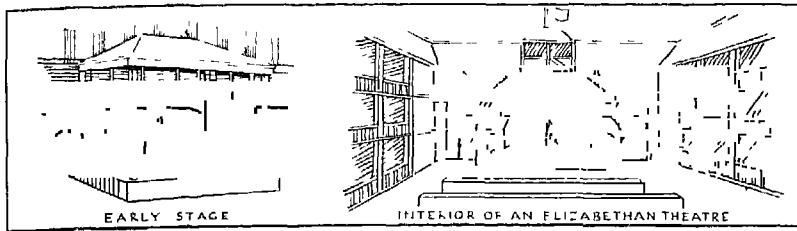
RALEIGH is another famous name amongst Elizabethan sailors. He was born in 1552 and was thus only a boy of six when Elizabeth came to the throne. All his life was full of adventure. As a young man he fought in France and the Netherlands, then sailed with his half-brother, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, to the West Indies. On his return he fought in Ireland and was granted estates there. In 1584 Raleigh set out on an expedition to found a colony for Englishmen on the coast of North America, he named the settlement Virginia after Elizabeth. Probably Raleigh did not fight against the Armada, but he was active in arranging for the defence of England. He fell into disgrace with the queen in 1592, partly because he had married one of the queen's maids of honour (The story of this is told in *Merry England*) In 1595 Raleigh set out to find the fabled land El Dorado—a name which means "the Golden City." Here, it was said, were jewels and gold in plenty, and the ruler was reported to dust himself with gold dust before bathing. Raleigh failed in his quest. Later, in the reign of James I, he was imprisoned after a very unfair trial, having been accused of plotting against the king. Released to try once more to find the treasure of El Dorado for the king, Raleigh was forced into a fight with the Spaniards, losing his son in the course of it. James had ordered him not to fight, and when the Spanish king demanded that Raleigh should be punished, the old charge of treason was brought up again, and the brave Englishman

was beheaded in Old Palace Yard, Westminster, in 1618. While in prison he had written a *History of the World*. Raleigh was soldier, sailor, poet, writer, and courtier. He had dreamed of an England beyond the seas and was one of the great pioneers of colonization.

**EAST INDIA COMPANY** Englishmen had begun to adventure in another part of the world besides the Americas. Earlier in this book you have seen that the Portuguese were the first navigators to find a route to India and the Spice Islands by sailing round the Cape of Good Hope. The capture of a Portuguese ship by Drake just before the coming of the Spanish Armada had shown that there was wealth in the East Indies as well as to the West. Therefore, in 1600 the merchants of London founded the East India Company for trading in the East, and on 31st December of that year Queen Elizabeth granted it a Charter. This company became very important, as we shall see, and was really responsible for the vast country of India coming under British Rule.

### EXERCISES

- 1 Read Tennyson's poem "The Revenge" and then write an account of the fight it describes
- 2 Why was the establishment of the East India Company important?
- 3 For what is Virginia famous to-day?



## 16. WRITERS OF ELIZABETH'S REIGN

THE reign of Elizabeth was a remarkable one in many ways. English seamen mastered the art of navigation and fared out on the seven seas. The Spaniards lost their supremacy and England steadily gained in importance through her commerce and colonization.

Whilst some men were adventuring on land and sea, others were writing poems, books and plays. The English language was being used by clever and gifted writers as never before. In all the years of our history no age has produced greater writers than the Elizabethan.

Let us consider some of the famous names of the Elizabethan age. We shall not have space to say much about each of them, you should look up their lives in an encyclopaedia and read some of their poems in the *Golden Treasury*. These are the names—

EDMUND SPENSER	SIR PHILIP SIDNEY
CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE	BEN JONSON
RICHARD HOOKER	SIR WALTER RALEIGH
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE	MICHAEL DRAYTON
SIR FRANCIS BACON	

EDMUND SPENSER (*c* 1552–1599) was born in London and educated at the Merchant Taylors' School, and at Cambridge. After living with relatives in Lancashire he returned to London and was appointed Secretary to the Lord Deputy of Ireland. Later he was given an estate of 3000 acres in Cork. It was in Ireland that Spenser formed

a friendship with Sir Walter Raleigh. In 1589 he showed Raleigh a new poem which he had written, called *The Faerie Queene*. Raleigh persuaded him to take the poem to London to show to Elizabeth. She liked it, and was flattered—for

was not the Faerie Queene Elizabeth herself? — and she gave Spenser a small pension. He then married and went to live in Ireland. There his house was set on fire in an insurrection, one of his children being burnt to death. Spenser returned to London a sad man, and died in 1599, before he was fifty. He was buried in Westminster Abbey near the grave of Chaucer. Of Spenser it may be said that he brought back poetry to the English language.



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

From the Chandos portrait by William Essex now in National Portrait Gallery

*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

Keats read this translation and thought it so fine that he wrote, in a famous sonnet—

Oft of one wide expanse had I been told  
That deep-brow'd Homer ruled as his demesne  
Yet did I never breathe its pure serene  
Till I heard Chapman speak out loud and bold

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY too wrote many lovely poems, some of which have been set to music. You may know the short poem beginning "My true love hath my heart."

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, however, is the greatest of all the writers of his and perhaps of any age. Shakespeare was born in 1564 at Stratford-on-Avon in Warwickshire, on St. George's Day, 23rd April, it is said. His father combined the trades of butcher, corn and wool merchant.



SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE, HENLEY STREET, STRATFORD-ON-AVON

Restored 1857-1858

*Courtesy British Railways*

and leather factor. When William was old enough he was sent to the local grammar school, and from his writings we get an idea of what his school-days were like. He played games—football and hide-and-seek—did not always enjoy his lessons, and learnt “a little Latin and less Greek.” Near by was the castle of Kenilworth and often he watched royal visitors going and coming from the functions that were held there. In the woods he met minstrels, actors and

singers who were going to perform in the castle. Once, at least, he saw Queen Elizabeth. When school was over he helped his father in business.

Some people think that he went abroad for a year or two after leaving school, but at all events when he was



SHAKESPEARE'S CHARACTERS

*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

nineteen he married a woman of twenty-seven, named Anne Hathaway. Shortly after his first son was born Shakespeare got into trouble with a local landowner and magistrate, being accused of poaching. Shakespeare wrote a poem making fun of the magistrate and pinned it to his gate. This caused such a scandal that Shakespeare had to leave his home town. He went to London and soon obtained a post at one of the theatres. Later he acted, first at the old Rose Theatre and then at the Globe, which was on the right bank of the Thames, not far from London Bridge. Sometimes the company of actors to which he belonged went on tour, and we find him visiting Shrewsbury, Oxford, and other towns.

We are not sure when or how Shakespeare began to write plays. Some people think he started by altering the plays of others in order to improve them. The plays that he himself wrote are wonderful not only as poetry but in

their knowledge of human nature—almost too learned, it seems, for one mind alone. You may not appreciate all of Shakespeare's plays at a first reading, yet there is much you can understand and enjoy in comedies like the *Midsummer Night's Dream* and much to stir the imagination and sense of pity in the great dramas of *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*. The plays are generally divided into three kinds—COMEDIES, which are light and amusing plays, TRAGEDIES, in which the chief characters and often others as well may meet with sad or violent ends; and HISTORICAL PLAYS which describe famous persons and scenes in English History.

Here is a list of some of the best-known plays—

COMEDIES	TRAGEDIES	HISTORICAL PLAYS
<i>The Tempest</i>	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	<i>King Henry IV</i>
<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	<i>Hamlet</i>	<i>King Henry V</i>
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	<i>King Lear</i>	<i>King Henry VI</i>
<i>As You Like It</i>	<i>Macbeth</i>	<i>King Richard II</i>
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	<i>Julius Caesar</i>	<i>King Henry VIII</i>

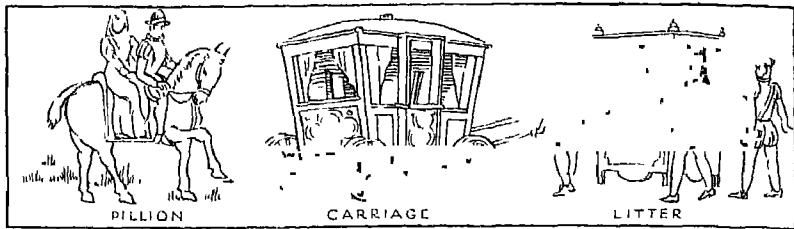
Many of Shakespeare's poems are also world famous, some of the sonnets in particular being unequalled

Great writers have praised Shakespeare; his friend, Ben Jonson, wrote this epitaph upon him—

Thou art a monument without a tomb,  
And art alive still, while thy book doth live,  
And we have wit to read and praise to give

#### • CHANGES IN ENGLISH LIFE IN ELIZABETH'S REIGN

Queen Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558 and died in 1603. She thus had a long reign of forty-five years, during which many important changes had taken place.



TUDOR TRANSPORT

England, formerly one of the lesser powers, was now a leading nation, with a decisive influence in Europe and the world at large. Her seamen were venturing on every ocean, her merchantmen were trading in many lands. London was becoming the centre of world commerce, and the Queen herself had opened the Royal Exchange. The woollen trade was growing and English people were beginning to have more luxuries. The clothes of the rich were made of satin and silk. Starched ruffs were worn round the neck, and silk stockings, fine gloves and jewellery were other articles of dress which were now the privilege of others besides the nobility.

### EXERCISES

- 1 What do you think were the most important changes which took place in Elizabeth's reign?
- 2 Describe briefly the differences in the way a man in a town in William I's reign would live compared with a man in a similar position in Elizabeth's reign.
- 3 What work would the following people do in the reign of Elizabeth? (a) a seaman, (b) a boy actor, (c) a dramatist, (d) a mason, (e) a tailor, (f) a barber?
- 4 Try to discover any houses or remains of houses built in your district in Elizabeth's reign.

— Reigned 22 years —

King of Scotland since he was a baby

‘Divine Right of Kings’      ‘No bishop, no king’

Religious troubles { Gunpowder Plot, 1605  
Pilgrim Fathers, 1620

Authorized version of Bible, 1604

Raleigh’s expedition, 1616

Trouble with Parliament

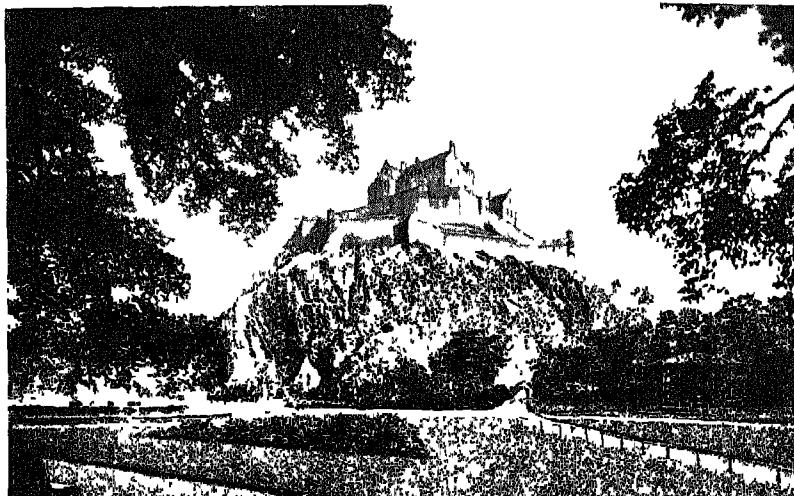
## 17. A SCOTTISH KING FOR ENGLAND

THE great queen who had ruled the nation for nearly fifty years had never married. On her deathbed, when asked who should succeed her, Elizabeth said “Who should succeed me but a king, and who should that be but our cousin of Scotland?”

James VI of Scotland, who was now to be James I of England, was the son of Mary Queen of Scots. The people of England welcomed James, for they had feared that an attempt might be made to put the daughter of Philip II of Spain on the throne. Then, James had been a king since he was nine months old (he was now a man of thirty-seven), and they thought he should know by this time how to rule wisely.

A messenger had ridden post-haste to Scotland to tell James of the new honour. Scotland was a poor country, James had little wealth, and the first thing he did was to send to London for money to pay his expenses in coming to be crowned. James meant to start well and to come to his new throne in grand style. As a boy he had been delicate, and as he grew up he showed that he was a scholar. He thought a great deal about the task of kingship and believed that a king was appointed not by the people but by God; he wrote a book on this subject, called *The True Law of a Free Monarchy*.

Henry VIII had been clever, strong, well-built and kingly in appearance; Elizabeth knew how to look, as well as how to act, the queen, James, unfortunately, was not very personable. A writer of the times tells us that he was of middle height and somewhat stout. He was timid,

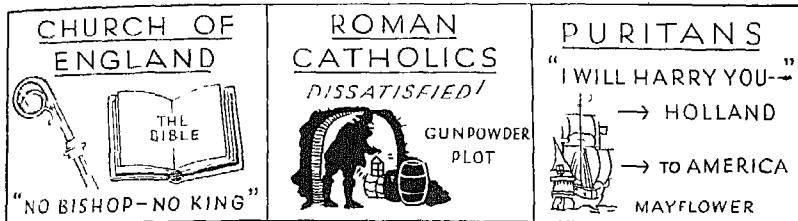


EDINBURGH CASTLE

Originally a fortress on a rock. Here James I of England was born  
*Courtesy British Railways*

and lived in constant fear of being murdered. He has been described as having rolling eyes, a thin beard, a tongue too large for his mouth, which made him lisp, and weak legs which caused him to lean on others for support. Perhaps the description is unkind and written by one who did not love him overmuch, but James certainly lacked dignity. He was clever, but did not always act wisely, and he became known as "the wisest fool in Christendom."

This was a pity, for England needed a strong king who could be a leader of the nation, but James was determined to have his own way whether it pleased his subjects or no.



At the beginning of his reign he had to come to a decision about the religion of the country. There were at the time three main religious parties or sects, all of which hoped that James would side with them.

The ROMAN CATHOLICS thought that since James' mother, Mary Queen of Scots, had been a Roman Catholic, James would not persecute them. James, however, though sympathetic at first, soon showed that he would do nothing to help the Catholics.

The PURITANS thought that, as they were so powerful in Scotland, James would be certain to favour *them*. Actually James had never liked the sober, strict-living Puritans of his native land. In Scotland bishops had been abolished and "Elders" had been appointed in their places. The Puritans were told that they must use the English Prayer Book. The clergy who refused to *conform* were turned out of their livings. "No bishop, no king" said James, thereby meaning that as long as he were king there should be bishops.

The followers of the CHURCH OF ENGLAND knew from his attitude towards the other religions that James was going to support the national Church as organized in the reign of Elizabeth.

Now several important events followed. The Roman Catholics were bitterly disappointed and some of them began to think how they might get rid of a king who showed that he meant to put down their religion. A plot was hatched by a Northamptonshire gentleman named Robert Catesby, who decided that the best way would be to blow

up the Houses of Parliament when the King, Lords and Commons met there to open Parliament in 1605. Several people were let into the secret, and the help of Guido or Guy Fawkes, a Yorkshire gentleman of Spanish descent, was secured. A house next to Parliament House was rented, the intention being to tunnel from its cellars and to place a store of gunpowder under the House of Lords. The work was difficult, for it had to be done as quietly as possible, and the walls were thick. Then the conspirators found that there was a cellar to let immediately under the House of Lords. This cellar was hired and gunpowder was secretly stored under coal and wood.

The meeting of Parliament was put off several times and the plotters wondered whether they were discovered. Eventually, Parliament was to meet at the beginning of November, and the conspirators knew that if their plot was to be a success they must have money, ammunition, and men ready to support a revolution. Others therefore were let into the secret. Under the excuse of a "meet" of the hounds, a large number of Catholic leaders were to gather at an estate in the Midlands, there to wait the big explosion. They would then seize the king's eldest daughter Elizabeth, who was nine years old, and carry her off.

One thing worried the plotters; this was how they should warn those of their friends who might be expected to attend the opening of Parliament, so that they would stop away. It was agreed that nothing could be done. Tresham, one of the plotters, however, determined to warn his cousin Lord Monteagle, and sent him an unsigned letter—

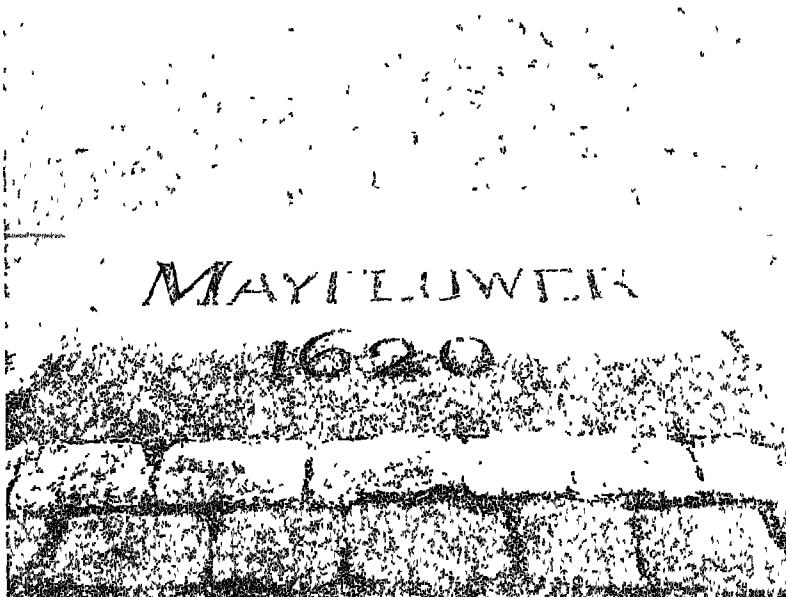
. I would advise you to devise some excuse to shift of your attendance at this Parhamant . Retire yourself into the country where you may expect the event in safety, for I say this Parliament shall receive a terrible blow, and yet they shall not see who hurts them

Monteagle, though a devout Catholic, was loyal to the king and took the letter to the offices of state and then to the king. The cellars of Parliament House were searched and there Guy Fawkes was found, ready to light the train of gunpowder which was to have blown up Parliament. Fawkes bravely refused to give the names of his fellow plotters, but later, under much torture, did so. All were put to cruel deaths, and stricter laws against Roman Catholics were passed, which was a pity, for the majority of the Catholics had nothing to do with the plot.

If the Roman Catholics fared badly under James, the Puritans were treated little better. The name PURITAN was originally used in the reign of Queen Elizabeth almost as a nickname for those who wished to purify the Church of England from what they considered to be the unholy practices of the Church of Rome. Later, the name was given to those people who did not belong to the Church of England but were members of NONCONFORMIST bodies, following, generally, the beliefs of Calvin. These Puritans believed in freedom to worship God in their own way, and they were to play a big part in the history of the next fifty years. There were many clever and learned men amongst them, such as Milton, Cromwell, and Bunyan.

Some of the Puritans, being anxious to worship God in their own way, free from persecution, decided to find new homes abroad. One group of people from Scrooby in Lincolnshire, under John Robinson, went to Leyden in Holland and settled down there. It was natural that they should go to Holland, for there the people had fought for their religion and had gained their liberty. After some years, however, the English decided that they would be happier in a community by themselves. So the leaders obtained a grant of land in North America from the Virginia Company, as well as a promise from the king that in the new land across the Atlantic they should worship as they pleased.

Accordingly, on 6th September, 1620, seventy-eight men and twenty-four women set off in a ship named the *Mayflower*. One person died and one baby was born on the voyage which ended, through a misunderstanding, on the cold and desolate coast of Cape Cod. Here, in Massachusetts,



MAYFLOWER STONE, PLYMOUTH

To commemorate the departure of the Pilgrim Fathers from Plymouth 6th September, 1620. The *Mayflower* was an old whaling ship

*Courtesy British Railways*

a colony was founded, which, as they had sailed from Plymouth, the Pilgrim Fathers called "New Plymouth." This was the first real English colony in North America, and it proved the beginning of the mighty country which is now the United States of America. How colony after colony was established, and how they united and finally became independent, will be told in later chapters.

THE ENGLISH BIBLE Before leaving the question of religion, we must mention one event of lasting importance which occurred in James's reign. Soon after he came to the throne the new king held a meeting at Hampton Court (do you remember how the kings of England obtained this mansion?) of representatives of the Bishops and the Puritans. They could come to no agreement, but as a result of the meeting James ordered a new translation of the Bible to be made. This is substantially the Bible which is used in most churches to-day and is known as the Authorized Version. A committee of forty-seven scholars made the translation, which was published in 1611, and was plainly a great improvement on either Wycliffe's or Tyndale's work. Remember that the translation was made in an age when Shakespeare was writing his plays, Raleigh his *History* and Bacon his scientific works—when the spirit of adventure had infused itself into the literature of the time.

### EXERCISES

- 1 Why was it difficult for a sovereign to follow Elizabeth on the throne?
- 2 What advantages and what disadvantages had James I when he became king?
- 3 How did James solve the question of religion? Can you suggest a better solution?
- 4 Read the preface in the Bible and notice how James I is mentioned.

## 18. PARLIAMENT AND KING

THE people of a nation must obey the law of the land. In most constitutional countries, before a law can come into force it is introduced as a *Bill*. In Britain, both the Members of the House of Commons (who are elected by the people) and the Members of the House of Lords must agree to the Bill, and the King must give it his assent; then it becomes *Law*. Nowadays, as the majority of those over twenty-one can vote to choose their Member of Parliament, it may be said that all those of mature age who must *obey* the law have some voice, if only a small one, in *making* the law.

This was not always the case. Parliament itself has won its power gradually and only after prolonged struggles. The kings of Saxon times had a Witenagemot (a gathering of wise men) to advise them. Edward I's reign was famous, among other things, for the calling of a Model Parliament. Some hundred years later, Parliament was divided into the House of Lords and the House of Commons, by which time bitter fighting and civil war had weakened England as a nation. When Henry VII succeeded to the throne, Parliament welcomed a king who could really rule and bring peace to the country. Similarly, Henry VIII and Elizabeth were allowed by Parliament to have a great deal of power. There were signs, however, towards the end of Elizabeth's reign that Parliament desired to take a greater part in ruling the country. In this it was helped in the next reign by the general feeling that James was after all really a Scot, and that England should be ruled by Englishmen.

Trouble with Parliament began early, for in his first

notice to electors James told them not to choose as Members of Parliament outlaws or men of extreme religious views. Yet Buckinghamshire elected Goodwin, who was an outlaw. When James objected, Parliament stood firm and the king had to acquiesce. Soon after, a member was arrested for debt and put into prison. He was quickly released, however, and it was stated that no Member of Parliament should be imprisoned except for "treason, felony, or a breach of the peace." This was important, for it prevented a king who objected to the views of a member from putting him in prison. *Freedom of speech* is an important privilege in Parliament.

The chief quarrels between King and Parliament, however, arose about money. James had been poor in Scotland. When he came to England he began to draw to good purpose on the new sources of wealth which were opened to him. He gave gifts to many of his friends, lived in a luxurious manner, and spent prodigally. To get the large subsidies he needed, he had to call Parliament—and when Parliament met they took the opportunity to criticize the king's actions. No wonder that King and Parliament grew more and more unfriendly to one another. On one occasion James summoned both Houses of Parliament to meet him and addressed them in these terms: "Kings are justly called gods, for they exercise a manner of divine power upon earth. . . . The King is above the law." When the Parliament of 1614 was called to vote more supplies, the members spent the short period of its existence in declaiming against the king. He dismissed them, and in history this is known as the "Addled Parliament." For the next seven years James ruled without a Parliament, being advised by his favourite, George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, during this period James raised money by various illegal devices, such as "benevolences" and the sale of peerages and monopolies.

In January, 1621, he was forced to call another Parliament. The members naturally met in angry mood. The king's friends were condemned, some were imprisoned, and then a *Great Protestation* was drawn up, stating that the "privileges of Parliament are the undoubted birthright and inheritance of the subjects of England." So angered was James when he heard of this that he sent for the Journals of the House and, with his own hand, tore out the pages on which the Great Protestation was written.



CARDINAL DUC DE  
RICHELIEU  
(1585-1642)

A great French statesman who did much to establish the power of France and the French Crown

*Jones Bequest*  
*Courtesy Director and  
Secretary, Victoria and  
Albert Museum*

During the time that James was ruling without a Parliament he thought that he might avoid popular criticism if he went to war, so English troops were sent to aid the Protestants in the war which had broken out in Germany in 1618. When the next Parliament met, however, they again began to grumble at the king. Then when Parliament was dismissed, James determined to seek alliance with Spain by marrying his eldest son, Charles, to a Spanish princess. The Spaniards said they would agree if England showed favour to Roman Catholics. This could only be done by consent of Parliament, and James did not wish to call another Parliament.

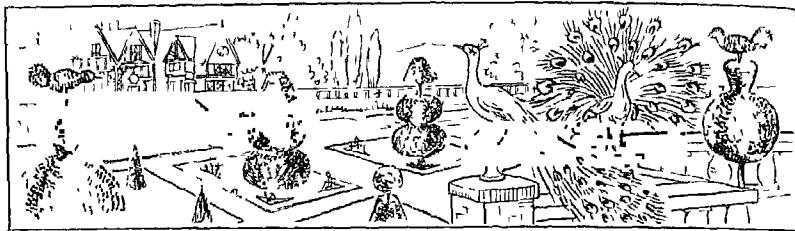
Charles and his friend Buckingham set off for Spain to try to win the love of the young lady, but their wooing failed and they returned crestfallen. When Charles got back he demanded that England should go to war with Spain. This was still a popular cry in England. A new Parliament was called to give their consent, a marriage between Charles and Henrietta Maria of France was arranged, and war seemed about to break out when James I died suddenly. The quarrel between King and Parliament was not yet

healed. Would the young King Charles agree with Parliament better than his father?

### EXERCISES

1 What were the causes of James's quarrels with his Parliaments?

2 What do you think might have happened if Charles had married a Spanish princess rather than a French one? Remember this French marriage as you read the chapters which follow.

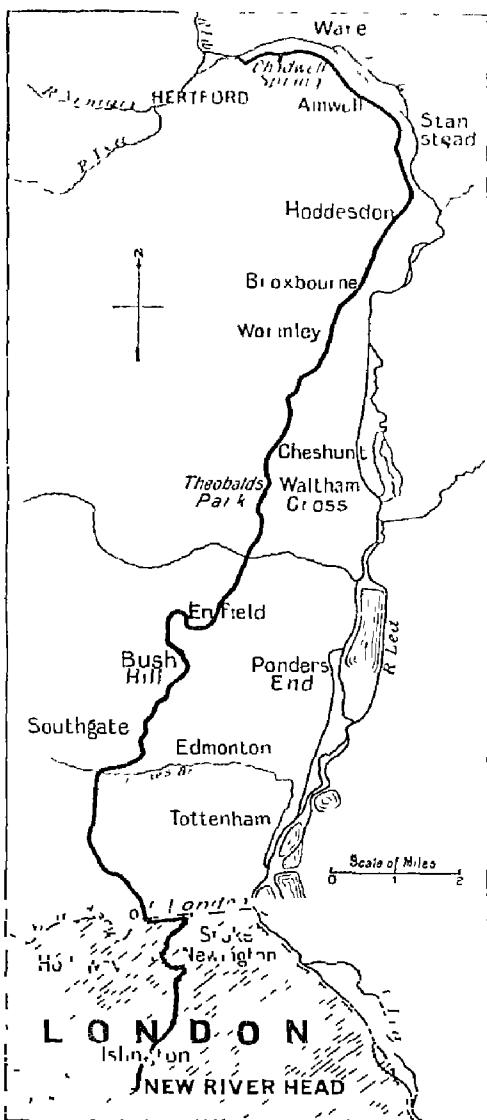


## 19. PROGRESS IN JAMES I's REIGN

In spite of quarrels between King and Parliament, England's prosperity was steadily growing, and important work was being done in many spheres of life.

Through the efforts of HUGH MIDDLETON, a London goldsmith, a supply of good drinking water was brought to London for the first time. James I supplied some of the money for this work. The channel of the "New River," nearly forty miles long, was cut from Hertfordshire to Islington, and water first flowed along it to London in the autumn of 1613. The water was originally conveyed along the streets in wooden pipes, but leakages were so great that iron pipes were substituted later. The New River still brings water to London, though many additional supplies are provided from the Thames and other sources by the Metropolitan Water Board.

People began to take a new interest in gardening. Houses were now generally built with windows, and this encouraged people to lay out gardens attractively. The Dutch were the people who had studied gardening most, and many of them came to England to show us how gardens should be planned. Their gardens were often laid out in patterns with trimmed box hedges, trees and shrubs. There were gravel paths, pleasant terraces and orchards. Several interesting books and treatises on farming and gardening were written during this time, you should read the essay by the great SIR FRANCIS BACON, containing a full description of his ideal garden.



THE NEW RIVER

Constructed 1609-1613 by Sir Hugh Middleton

There were many playwrights, poets and authors at work in James's reign. Shakespeare was still alive. Bacon, a very learned man, was Lord Chancellor of England, and he wrote books in both English and Latin. Many of his phrases are quite commonly used in our language to this day. Raleigh, as we have seen, wrote his *History of England* while in prison. Amongst the poets we might name Campion, Heywood, and Herrick, each of whom produced memorable verses.

The man whose silent days  
In harmless joys are spent,  
Whom hopes cannot delude  
Nor sorrow discontent  
That man needs neither towers  
Nor armour for defence

CAMPION

Pack, clouds, away! and welcome, day!  
With night we banish sorrow  
Sweet air, blow soft, mount, lark, aloft  
To give my Love good-morrow!

HEYWOOD

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,  
Old Time is still a-flying  
And this same flower that smiles to-day,  
To-morrow will be dying

HERRICK.

Men were beginning to study the world in which they lived with more interest, and here the name of FRANCIS BACON must again be mentioned, for he was a practical scientist who showed how snow and ice could be used to stop meat from going bad, and was thus a pioneer of cold storage.

WILLIAM GILBERT, a doctor, had begun experiments in magnetism and electricity, and NAPIER (1550–1617), a Scottish student, had studied algebra and discovered the use of logarithms which were of great assistance in making

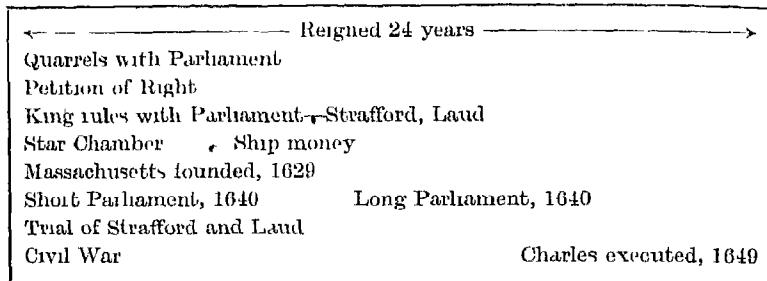
long calculations Napier also introduced the decimal system.

TRADE too was developing. The London Company sent settlers to Chesapeake Bay in North Virginia where a settlement was founded in 1607 and called Jamestown after the king. The leader there was the adventurer and explorer, Captain John Smith. He was captured by the Indians when trying to obtain food supplies and was only saved from death by Pocahontas, an Indian princess. Later he surveyed the coast of Cape Cod. In 1621 James granted a monopoly in tobacco to the Virginians and to-day the most popular tobacco is still that grown in Virginia. In 1612 the Bermudas became an English colony. The East India Company was growing stronger year by year and doing a great deal of trade with India and the Spice Islands.

SOME CUSTOMS. Large houses were now being built of red brick and carved stone. Portraits were hung on the walls. Hunting became a great hobby with the rich, and hawking was a favourite pastime. The women wore linen; they brewed beer, and preserved fruit. People played on harps and guitars.

### EXERCISES

- 1 What would you consider was the most important event of James I's reign?
- 2 What were the chief religious difficulties of the reign?
- 3 What were the chief social changes in the reign?
4. What made the king appear more loyal to England than to Scotland?



## 20. KING *versus* PARLIAMENT

THE new king came to the throne as Charles I. He was the second son of James I, his brother Henry having died in 1612. In appearance Charles was quite unlike his awkward, careless father. The young prince had grown into a tall man of good presence, who really looked a king. He had many fine qualities too, and a name for honesty and truth, being also a lover of beautiful pictures, clothes and furniture. Further, Charles was a religious man. One might have expected him to be a more popular king than his father, but this was not to be the case, and it is not difficult to see why.

His father had taught him from earliest childhood that a king ruled by *Divine Right*. Hence Charles was no believer in any further increase of the powers of Parliament. Unfortunately for the king, there were many determined men in the Commons who believed that Parliament *should* have more power than they at present enjoyed.

Then, in religion, Charles liked services with beautiful music and ritual, and churches decorated with ornaments and windows of stained glass. The Puritans would have none of these things, holding that psalms and hymns were sufficient music, and that ornaments and stained glass were akin to idols. Charles therefore was not popular with the Puritans. They liked him still less when he married Hen-

rietta Maria, a French princess and a Roman Catholic. When they heard that Henrietta was to be allowed to have private services in her own religion they took serious offence.

Charles had another failing. He always seemed to have a favourite whose advice he took, against that of men better qualified to give an opinion. At the beginning of Charles's reign the DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM was the person most in favour.

When the new king had succeeded to the throne, Parliament had made up its mind to be master and to put a stop to the evils of the last reign. One way of keeping the king in check, they thought, would be to keep a firm hand on the purse-strings. So when Charles asked for money to pay his father's debts and to provide for his house, they gave him £140,000 — one-fifth of what he asked. The Commons granted him tonnage and poundage for one year only (previously kings had been granted these taxes as their right for life), but the House of Lords rejected this gift altogether. Charles was in a towering rage and, on the advice of Buckingham, he dismissed Parliament after only twenty-five days.

War with Spain now broke out, and Charles, remembering how popular Drake's attack on Cadiz had been in



KING CHARLES I

After Van Dyke

*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

Elizabeth's reign, thought he would win popularity by another such expedition. A squadron under Sir Edward Cecil was to wait and entrap the treasure-ships from America when they arrived at Cadiz. The expedition failed entirely, since neither the sailors nor soldiers had any desire to fight.

Charles had spent his money, and he began to collect tonnage and poundage, though he had not been given the right to do so. He called a second Parliament in 1626. When the members began to find fault with Buckingham, those who spoke most fiercely against the king's favourite were thrown into the Tower. Then Parliament refused to work until their fellow-members were released. Charles, in need of money, gave way, but when the members returned to the Commons



ANOTHER PORTRAIT OF CHARLES I

*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

they immediately continued the attack on Buckingham, and Charles again dissolved Parliament. War with Spain was resumed and Charles began to force loans from his subjects as Henry VIII had done. Then another war broke out with France. An expedition led by Buckingham to help the Huguenots was a failure. Money—more money—was needed, and Charles had to call a Parliament once more.

The first work of this third Parliament was to bring up the now familiar grievances. Here were the charges.

- (1) Loans had been forced from many persons by the king,
- (2) Persons had been imprisoned without proper cause shown;
- (3) Judges had refused to release these prisoners.

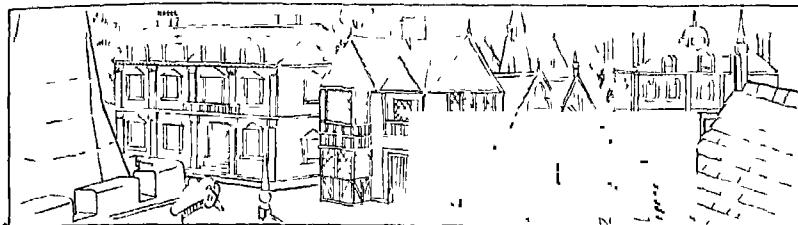
All these complaints were serious, for each of them involved an attack on the liberties granted by MAGNA CARTA. The chief of these were, you will remember—"No scutage or aid shall be imposed . . . except by the Common Council of the Realm"; and "No freeman shall be taken or imprisoned unless by the lawful judgement of his peers, or by the law of the land"

The rights of Englishmen were now set out again in the PETITION OF RIGHT. Charles was unwilling to sign it, but on 7th June, 1628, he agreed, saying, "Let right be done" Parliament then granted the king some money, but refused him permission to collect taxes until they had stated their objections against his wrong-doing in this matter before; Charles then adjourned Parliament. Meanwhile, Buckingham, the favourite, was stabbed by a private enemy of his. People thought that now the king might rule more as Parliament wished. Parliament met again and objected to the king's imposing taxes; they were about to vote upon a resolution to this effect when a message came from the king ordering Parliament to adjourn again. Now the House of Commons is only considered to be meeting when the Speaker or Chairman of the House is in the chair. The Speaker rose to read Charles's message, when two members rushed forward and held him down. He agreed to continue the session, and the king's opponents passed their resolution. They then broke up, never to meet again, for Charles dissolved Parliament and determined to rule without one. Certain members who in their speeches had attacked the king were thrown in the Tower. One of these, Sir John

Elliot, who refused to withdraw his statements, remained a prisoner for three years, until, in weak and shattered health, he died. The first stage of the fight between King and Parliament was over.

### EXERCISES

- 1 What made Charles I unpopular?
- 2 Why should Parliament want the provisions of Magna Carta kept?
- 3 Give examples from earlier history of kings who had been badly advised by favourites?
- 4 Why is the Petition of Right considered very important in English history?



## 21. CHARLES I RULES ALONE (1629-1640)

CHARLES ruled for eleven years as an absolute monarch, asking advice from no Parliament. He was assisted during this time by two celebrated men, Sir Thomas Wentworth and William Laud.

WENTWORTH, who came of an old Yorkshire family, sat in the Parliaments of James I and the early Parliaments of Charles I as a leader of the Commons against the king. After the death of Buckingham, however, he became a king's man and rising rapidly in the royal favour was soon created Earl of Strafford. It is said that upon Wentworth's meeting a former fellow-Member of the Commons, the latter said, "You have left us, Sir Thomas, but we shall never leave you while you have a head on your shoulders" There was grim truth in this remark, as events were to show.

Strafford's chief work for Charles was to subdue Ireland. There he ruled with a strong and firm hand. His motto was "Thorough". He never did things by half. Ireland obtained peace, pirates were driven away, the linen industry was started, and the army was drilled and disciplined. Yet the Irish hated Strafford for his sternness and his attempts to force the religion of the English Church upon them whereas they had always been Roman Catholics.

WILLIAM LAUD, born at Reading in 1573 and educated at Oxford, became a priest in 1600 and held high positions in the Church. Laud was a little man, clever but hot-tempered and a hater of Puritans. In 1633 Charles made him Archbishop of Canterbury and a member of the Star

Chamber. Immediately, Laud began to introduce changes into the English Church. He did these things because he believed them to be right, but the harsh punishments he meted out to those who disagreed with him made him generally disliked. An example of the way in which men were punished is the case of WILLIAM PRYNNE, a Puritan lawyer, who had written a pamphlet which offended the king. Prynne was arrested, tried by the Star Chamber, fined £5000, pilloried, had both ears cut off, and was sentenced to perpetual imprisonment. In 1636 he managed to smuggle another pamphlet out of prison; his sentence was confirmed and in addition he was branded on both cheeks.

The greatest difficulty Charles had during his eleven years of government was that of obtaining money. People knew his demands were illegal, but many paid the taxes and the forced loans because they feared the Star Chamber. Many men, however, would not pay. Amongst the most famous of these was JOHN HAMPDEN, who was first Member of Parliament for Grampound in Cornwall and later for Wendover in Buckinghamshire. In 1627 Hampden was imprisoned for refusing to pay a share of a forced loan, and in 1635 he was prosecuted for refusing to pay *Ship Money*. Before the reign of Charles it had been usual for seaport towns to fit out ships to defend the coasts, *but only in time of war*. In 1634, however, Charles sent out demands for money for warships on the pretext that pirates were plentiful, and in 1635 the demand for money was made to inland towns which had never before paid the tax. (It may be that it was fair for all to bear the burden of the navy, but the tax was illegal as it had not been passed by the Commons.)

John Hampden's share was twenty shillings: he refused to pay, though the amount was small. The case was tried by twelve judges, seven of whom agreed that the king could collect the tax, while five held that Hampden was

right in refusing to pay. Thus Hampden lost his case. Here is what the judges said: "Your Majesty may, by writ, under the great seal of England, command all the subjects of this your kingdom . . . to provide and furnish such



ST. GILES' CHURCH, EDINBURGH

A stool said to have belonged to Jenny Geddes is in the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh

*Courtesy British Railways*

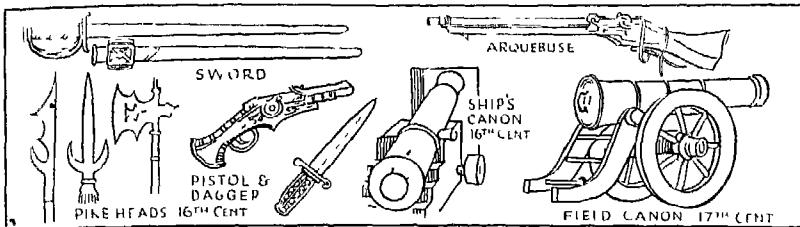
number of ships. Your Majesty is the sole judge." Later, when the House of Commons met, they attacked the judges, saying "A most excellent prince hath been most infinitely abused by his judges telling him . . . he might do what he pleased." The stand made by Hampden increased Charles's unpopularity and determined many Englishmen to find a way to make him rule properly.

Meanwhile Laud was stirring up trouble. People are always ready to fight any attack made upon their religion. In his attempt to alter the form of services Laud determined to compel the Scots to accept the rules and services of the Church of England and to make them give up their Presbyterian form of worship. At St Giles' Church in Edinburgh, when the new form of service was to be used, it is said that Jenny Geddes took up a praying stool and threw it at the clergyman. Then an uproar began and the service came to an end. The Scots would have none of the new service book, and drew up a *Solemn League and Covenant*. Those who flocked to sign the Covenant, many of them actually with their own blood, were known as COVENANTERS.

These enthusiasts, encouraged by the celebrated French statesman, Cardinal Richelieu, formed an army and marched south. Charles was at his wits' end. He had no money to raise an army, and he thought best to make terms with the Scots. This he did, but the Scots were not satisfied and war still loomed ahead. Charles was in a difficult position, the one way out, he decided, would be to call a Parliament. An English Parliament would surely grant him supplies if a Scots army threatened the country.

### EXERCISES

1. Why did Charles wish to rule without Parliament?
2. Name all the parties in the State which believed in Parliament.
3. What religious bodies were most offended by Charles?



## 22. THE SHORT AND LONG PARLIAMENTS

ON 13th April, 1640, Parliament met again after eleven years. The members were in angry mood, since the king had ignored them for so long and would be counselled by none but his favourites. Before they would grant him any money they again demanded that their grievances should be put right. These were the well-known ones—

- (1) No changes should be made in religion without consent of Parliament;
- (2) No illegal taxes should be levied,
- (3) The rights of Parliament should be respected

The renewal of these demands only served to enrage Charles, and after twenty-five days Parliament was dissolved. For this reason, it is known in history as the **SHORT PARLIAMENT**.

Immediately, Charles resumed his acts of oppression, imprisoning Members of Parliament, gathering illegal taxes and enforcing payment of Ship Money. Then the Scots actually crossed the border into England, and refused to go back unless Charles paid them a large sum of money. Charles knew not what to do; he called the old Council of Peers together, who advised him to call a Parliament. So on 3rd November, 1640, Parliament met again. It was to be known as the **LONG PARLIAMENT**. This Parliament, which was made up mainly of country gentlemen and lawyers, contained many famous men—Hampden, Selden, Edward Hyde, Oliver Cromwell, and John Pym. Pym had sat in six Parliaments and had always resisted both James

and Charles in what he considered to be then illegal actions, a real Puritan leader, he was known in the Long Parliament as "King Pym." The Long Parliament lasted for nearly thirteen years. The members had resolved that Parliament alone should control taxes and that the oppressive courts of the Star Chamber and the High Commission should be abolished. They also determined to punish both Strafford and Laud. Strafford was tried under what is known as a *Bill of Attainder*. When both the Commons and Lords had found him guilty of treason it was necessary for the king to sign the bill before it could be carried out. Strafford felt safe, for he thought Charles would never condemn him to death. Charles, however, signed the bill, though earlier he had written to Strafford, "Upon the Word of a King, you shall not suffer in Lyfe, Honnor, or Fortune. This is but justice . . . Your constant, faithful friend, Charles R." Thus Charles himself surrendered his friend to death, though it was his clergy and councillors who advised it, because they feared the mob might attack the palace and injure the queen and royal children. As Strafford passed to the place of execution Laud looked out through the bars of his prison cell and blessed the Earl, who died bravely on Tower Hill (12th May, 1641).

Parliament now passed a bill to make it certain that England would not again be without a Parliament for eleven years. The *Triennial Act* declared that not more than three years should pass without a Parliament being summoned, it also provided who should call it if the king omitted to do so. It was further agreed that this Parliament should not be dissolved without its own consent (No wonder it became the *Long Parliament*) . . .

Some of the members began to wonder whether Parliament might do illegal things, just as the king himself had done. It looked as if quarrels might arise among the members themselves; and this was what Charles hoped.

When the Puritan leaders drew up *The Grand Remonstrance*, listing the evil deeds that Charles had done, it was carried by only eleven votes. Charles thought his chance had arrived. Encouraged by his queen, he charged five members—Pym, Hampden, Hollis, Hazelrig and Strode—with high treason. Both Houses of Parliament argued as to what should be done. Charles became impatient and angry at the delay, and on 5th January, 1642, he went himself with a band of soldiers to Westminster to arrest the five members. They, however, had heard secretly that the king was coming and escaped by boat from the House. When the king entered and asked the Speaker where the members were, the Speaker answered, "I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak, but as this House will direct me." "I see," said Charles, "all the birds are flown", he then said he should expect the Commons to send them to him or he would find them himself. As Charles retired, the cry "Privilege! privilege!" went up from members, for the king had no right to enter the House of Commons. His action, in fact, was something that seemed to deny the elementary rights of Englishmen, such as could only be defended by force of arms. Charles's tyranny had gone far enough, and both sides now began to rally their supporters throughout the country.

### EXERCISES

1. Why were these two Parliaments so named?
2. Why did Charles call the Short Parliament?
3. What did the Long Parliament resolve to do when it met?
4. Find what part, if any, the district round your school played in the Civil War.



### 23. THE CIVIL WAR AND ITS RESULTS

THE question, therefore, as to who was to rule England was now to be decided by war. Those who supported the king were called *Royalists*, those who sided with Parliament were known as *Parliamentarians*. We may give the position as follows—

**ROYALISTS.** These were soldiers called *Cavaliers*, consisting of noblemen and country gentlemen with their servants and tenants. They were good cavalry soldiers, having been used to horses all their lives. They had fine horses and good leaders, but very little money, silver and gold dishes, etc., were obtained from the gentry and universities and melted down. Prince Rupert, nephew of Charles, was a dashing cavalry leader who had learned his business in Germany. The west and north of the country were on the side of the king.

**PARLIAMENTARIANS** These were nicknamed *Roundheads* because they cropped their hair short, and so showed the shape of their heads. They comprised chiefly merchants, workmen, and the militia of London, together with those of the country squires who were Puritans. They included some very fine infantry, few cavalry, but plenty of money. The London merchants were rich and, of course, taxes could be collected and used by Parliament. The leaders were keen but not experienced in war. London, Kent, the Eastern Counties and parts of the Midlands supported the Parliament. The leader of the army was the Earl of Essex.

It would take too long to tell the story of the Civil War. Wherever you live in England, it is probable that a fight of some kind took place near your home or soldiers stayed in your district. Find out all you can about such events.



CÆSAR'S TOWER, WARWICK CASTLE

Built in the 14th Century, strengthened in the 17th Century, and held against the Royalists during the Civil Wars, August, 1642

*Courtesy British Railways*

Here is a list of the chief dates and happenings in the Civil War—

**1642.** 22nd August, the King's Banner raised at Nottingham; it immediately blew down, and this was considered a bad omen. The King's troops marched from Shrewsbury towards London.

**BATTLE OF EDGEHILL**—neither side victor. The King's

troops continued towards London, and when the Londoners were known to be getting ready to fight, Charles went back to Oxford and made it his headquarters. Here more soldiers were collected.

**1643.** During this year there was fighting in many parts of the country. Hampden was killed at Chalgrove Field near Aylesbury. Parliamentary troops were defeated near Devizes. Bristol, loyal to Parliament, was captured by Prince Rupert.

**1644.** Parliament won over Scotland to its side and a Scotch army entered England. With the help of this army Parliament defeated the Royalists at MARSTON MOOR and the King's cause was lost in the North of England.

Oliver Cromwell saw that cavalry were necessary if the Parliamentarians were to be successful. He trained the yeomen's sons to be clever horse soldiers and, what is more, he made them believe that their cause was really a religious one. These soldiers trained by Cromwell were nicknamed

### SOME OF THE BATTLES AND SIEGES OF CIVIL WAR

(R. = Royalist victory    P = Parliamentary victory )

Edgehill .	Oct , 1642	.	Drawn fight
Chalgrove Field	June, 1643	.	R
Roundway Down	1643	.	R
Siege of Gloucester	10th Aug -5th Sept , 1643	.	P
Newbury (1st Battle)	Sept , 1643	.	P
Cropredy Bridge	June, 1644	.	R
Marston Moor	July, 1644	.	P
Newbury (2nd Battle)	Oct , 1644	.	P. *
Naseby	June, 1645	.	P
Preston	1648	.	P
Dunbar	3rd Sept , 1650	.	P
Worcester	.	3rd Sept , 1651	P

"Ironsides." The whole Parliamentary army was remodelled, put under good officers, and paid regular wages. It was known as the "New Model Army," was dressed in red and commanded by Fairfax, a brilliant general.

1645. 14th June, BATTLE OF NASEBY. At Naseby, not



RAGLAN CASTLE, MONMOUTHSHIRE

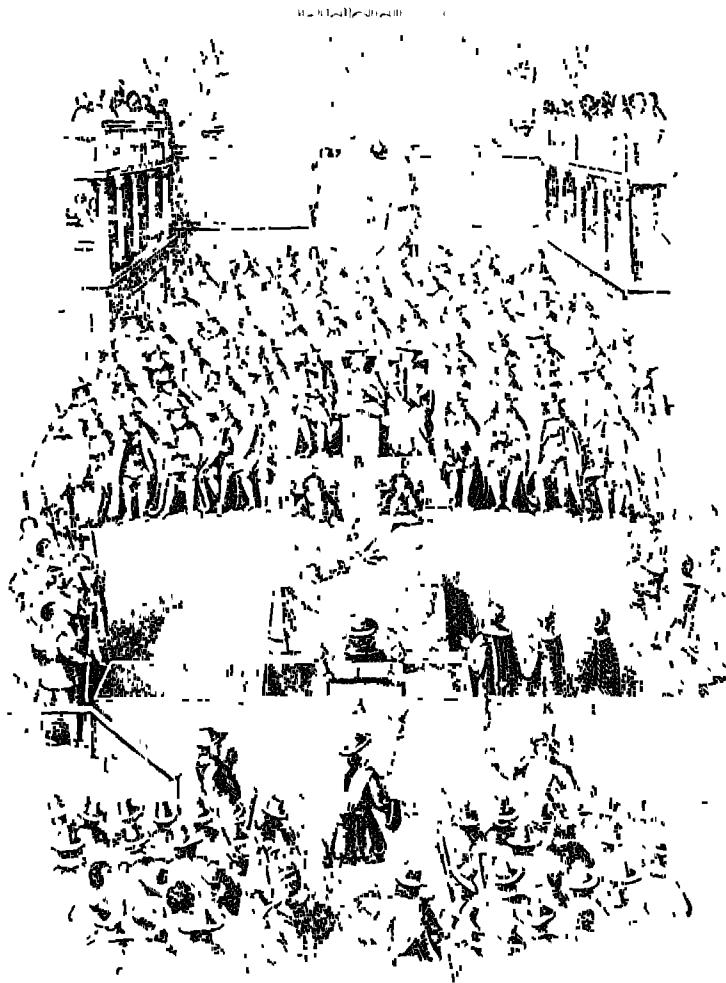
Original built by Normans, replaced in 14th Century by strong structure.  
In 1646 it was defended for ten weeks against the Parliamentarians after  
which it surrendered and was dismantled.

*Photo W. B. Little*

far from Daventry, Charles's army was utterly defeated, 1000 being killed and 5000 taken prisoners. The Royal baggage and munitions were also captured. Letters were found which showed that Charles had been trying to get foreign troops to help him.

1646. In May Charles gave himself up to the Scottish army.

1647. The Scots handed Charles over to Parliament.

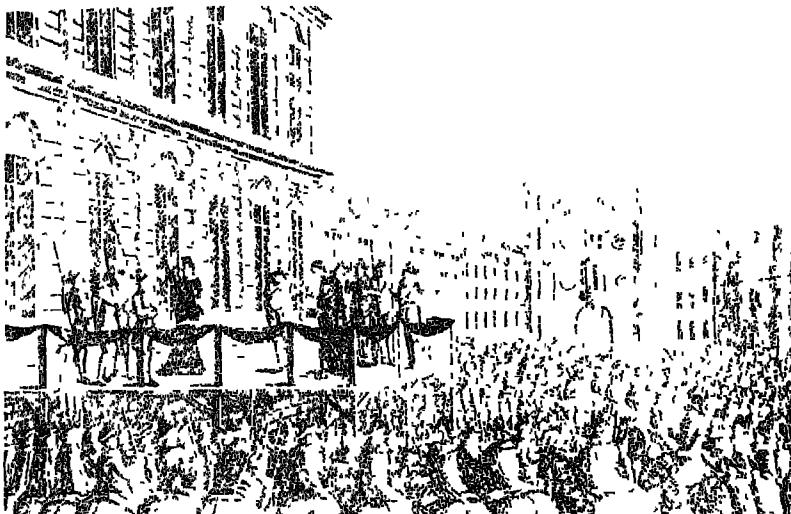


## TRIAL OF CHARLES I

Key to the above plate—A, The King B, The Lord President Bradshaw C and D, John Lilley and William Suy, Bradshaw's assistants E and F, Andrew Broughton and John Phelps, Clerks of the Court, G and H, Oliver Cromwell and Henry Martin, with the Arms of the Commonwealth over them I, K, and L, Counsellors for the Commonwealth

*From an old print of 1684*

The King was placed under guard at Holmby House, Northamptonshire. Parliament now wished to lessen the power of the New Model Army. The Army objected to the plans of Parliament by which the Army was to be reduced, paid less money, and deprived of those of its officers who



THE EXECUTION OF KING CHARLES I BEFORE THE BANQUETING  
HOUSE, WHITEHALL

*From an old print*

were Members of Parliament. Further, the Army leaders were INDEPENDENTS, who did not believe in Presbyterian government in religion. Soon therefore the Army quarrelled with Parliament. The Army seized the king, but he escaped, was recaptured and imprisoned in Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight

**1648.** SECOND CIVIL WAR broke out. The Army, however, easily stopped the war, beating the Scots and Royalists at Preston in North Lancashire. Whilst the Army were fighting, Charles made terms with Parliament. The Army

leaders were angered at this and sent Colonel Pride to Parliament to refuse admittance to all Presbyterian members, and those who sided with the King. This was called *Pride's Purge*. The remaining members, only about sixty all told, were known as *The Rump* or tail-end of the Long Parliament.

**1649.** January, the king was brought to Westminster Hall, to be tried by a Court set up by the Rump Parliament.

**TRIAL OF CHARLES I.** This opened on 20th January. Charles was accused of attempting to overthrow the rights and liberties of the people. The king bore himself bravely before the Court, told the president (John Bradshaw) that the Court had no power to try a king, and would not defend himself. After three days, the king was condemned to be "put to death by severing his head from his body." Charles in his last hours showed himself a real king, "nothing became him in his life," says one writer, "like the leaving of it." He bade farewell to his two children, who were still in London, and on 30th January, 1649, he was beheaded outside the Banqueting Hall in Whitehall. This Hall is now the Royal United Service Museum, and the window can be seen from which the king stepped out on to the scaffold.

The quarrel between King and Parliament, begun in the reign of James I, was over with the removal of the chief figure in it; yet Parliament had yielded its powers to one who dictated to it as few kings had ever done. What was to be the consequence?

### EXERCISES

- 1 Explain why England was divided over the rights of Parliament and King, and show why it was natural that people should take sides
- 2 Why was the king successful at first?
- 3 Give examples of wars where the side at first successful has finally lost—remember that reorganization can proceed during a war.
- 4 Why did Cromwell's New Model Army change the course of the Civil War?

	11 years	
Cromwell—Trouble in Ireland		
• Trouble with Scots		
Blaze defeats Dutch, 1652		
Barebone's Parliament, 1653		
Cromwell Lord Protector, 1653		
Success abroad—Jamaica, Dunkirk		
Cromwell died, 1658		
Richard Cromwell Protector, 1658–1660		

## 24. THE COMMONWEALTH

THE king had been beheaded. The Rump Parliament resolved to have no king, abolished the House of Lords, and set up a Council of State of forty-one persons to rule. At present it is usual, when changes are made in a country's government, to hold an election or "plebiscite." The "Rump" could not be said to represent the country, but its members were afraid they would lose their posts if an election were held.

Immediately, in Scotland and Ireland the eldest son of Charles I was proclaimed King as Charles II. In Ireland a rebellion broke out, which Cromwell was sent over to suppress. He did this with great thoroughness and much cruelty. Both Drogheda and Wexford were captured, and the garrisons, who had refused to surrender, were slaughtered. The Roman Catholic religion was forbidden, lands were taken from the Irish and given to soldiers of the New Model Army, and many people were shipped to America or the West Indies as slaves. The Irish have never forgiven Cromwell, and even to-day in Ireland the bitterest reproach is—"The curse of Cromwell be on ye!"

In Scotland both the Highlanders and the Covenanters were against the Commonwealth. The young Prince Charles stayed in Holland, while the Earl of Montrose tried to get the Highlanders to fight. The Covenanters were suspicious

of Montrose and made war on him, they routed his forces, captured the Earl and put him to death. Charles then did something which recalled the conduct of his father. He went over to the side of the Covenanters, forgot his Highland friends, signed the Covenant and won the support of the Scots army. Cromwell heard of this and marched his Ironsides north.



CROMWELL

1650, the Scots were utterly defeated.

Charles made a fresh attempt in 1651 to win the Royalists to his side and with another Scottish army marched into England. Gathering recruits as they went, the Royalists reached WORCESTER before Cromwell and his army caught them. Here, just a year after the Battle of Dunbar—3rd September, 1651—Cromwell defeated them completely. During the battle Charles showed great bravery, but he had to flee from the field and for many weeks went in disguise, fearing to meet the soldiers of the Commonwealth. After many narrow escapes, he at length took sail to France. The war was over.

Meanwhile England had to face new enemies overseas. As you have read, the power of Spain had been crushed. Holland had made a brave and successful fight against Spanish rule, and the result of the independence they had gained was that the Dutch were rapidly extending their commerce. The sailors and merchants of Holland were England's new rivals at sea. Moreover, the Prince of

Orange, ruler of the Dutch, having married the daughter of Charles I, would not love the Commonwealth.

In 1651, the Rump decided to pass the *Navigation Act*. This Act laid down that all goods should come to England either in English ships or in ships of the country that produced them. Now the Dutch did a great carrying trade, but after this they could only bring Dutch goods to England. Consequently English sea trade increased while that of the Dutch decreased. There were several other points at issue between the Dutch and the English, amongst which may be mentioned that England required the Dutch to salute the English flag in the Channel, and to agree that their ships should be searched. Eventually, war broke out. The Dutch Admiral van Tromp fixed a broom at the prow of his ship to signify that he could sweep the English from the seas. In reply, the English Admiral Blake fastened a whip to the mast-head of his ship as a sign that he would punish the insolence of the Dutch. In several battles the English fleets were victorious. This was creditable to the leaders, who had originally been officers in the army, whilst the Dutch admirals had always been seamen. The Commonwealth troops were also successful against the Spaniards in the Netherlands and at Dunkirk, while the navy entered the Mediterranean and punished a ruler in Tunis who had captured British sailors.

Cromwell had proved himself a great leader, but he had many problems to solve. He knew that the "Rump" was not a properly constituted Parliament. On 20th April, 1653, he went down to the House of Commons, determined to end this unsatisfactory state of things. He entered with his hat on and, striding up and down, made an angry speech: "I tell you, you are no parliament! I will put an end to your prating. For shame! get you gone, give place to honest men!—You are no longer a Parliament!" He stamped on the floor as a sign, the door was flung open and

a troop of soldiers entered. The members were ordered out. Then, seeing the Speaker's mace, which rests on the table when Parliament is sitting, Cromwell exclaimed, "What shall we do with this bauble?" Then, turning to a soldier, he said, "Take it away!" The Long Parliament was ended at last.

The Army decided that a new "Parliament" should be called, made up of people whose names had been sent in as suitable by Independent ministers. This became known as "Barebone's Parliament"—from one of its prominent members—and it consisted of 140 members, being unsatisfactory, it was soon ended. Then in December, 1653, Cromwell was made LORD PROTECTOR of England. For the remaining five years of his rule, he guided the country well both at home and abroad. He had difficulties with his Parliaments, who wished to reform religion on Puritan lines and to amend the constitution in order to weaken Cromwell's military rule. Cromwell died on the 3rd September, 1658, on the anniversary of his victories at Dunbar and Worcester. He was only fifty-eight, but the strain of government had been great. Towards the end of his life several plots were made to kill him. He could not safely sleep in the same bed for two nights running; he had to wear armour beneath his clothes, and carry pistols to protect himself.

By his will, Oliver Cromwell had named his son Richard to succeed him. Richard assumed the dignity, but soon he proved to be a weak ruler. The army leaders compelled him to dismiss Parliament and call back the "Rump" which Oliver Cromwell had dismissed.

Then Richard was asked to resign and was offered a pension, which he accepted. England was now under the control of Army leaders. When these quarrelled among themselves, General Monk, who had been governing Scotland, marched south. In London he ordered the full Long



THE DEATHBED OF CROMWELL

(Artist David Willie Wyntfield, d 1887)  
*Courtesy, Director and Secretary Victoria and Albert Museum*

Parliament to be called. People in England were tired of the Commonwealth, and they had no desire to be ruled by the Army or by the "Major-Generals" whom Cromwell had appointed to superintend local government. So when Charles, the son of the dead king, issued a notice on 4th April, 1660, that if he were made King of England he would pardon those who had opposed his father, give freedom to all persons to worship God as they would, and allow Parliament to settle all important matters, Parliament decided to invite Charles to come back as king.

### EXERCISES

- 1 Why do you think the "Rump" decided (a) to have no king, (b) to abolish the House of Lords?
- 2 Why is it important to have a general election if the government wishes to make great changes in the way the country is governed? Give examples from recent history where this has been done. Why is an election during a war rather unfortunate?
- 3 Read the life of Cromwell in an encyclopaedia. It is said that Cromwell's policy abroad was more successful than it was at home. Do you think this is correct?
- 4 How did the Scots try to help Charles and why did he cause them to distrust him?

1660

## CHARLES II

1685

Reigned 25 years			
King at 30 "Restoration"			
Act of Indemnity and Oblivion	War with Dutch	Great Plague, 1665	Allied with France
Act of Uniformity Conventicle Act	New York cap- tured, 1661	Great Fire, 1666	Habeas Corpus Act, 1679
Five Mile Act	Dutch in Thamees, 1667		Royal Society founded

## 25. THE RESTORATION AND CHARLES II

CHARLES II, son of Charles I who had been beheaded, came back as king of England in May, 1660. He was thirty years of age, tall and dark and of kingly appearance. From boyhood he had lived an adventurous life, being present at the Battle of Edgehill in 1642, escaping from England after the Battle of Worcester disguised as a servant, and living in exile on the Continent of Europe for nearly nine years. He was as glad to return as the people were to welcome him. The country had been very largely governed by the Army and its leaders. Neither the Royalists nor the Presbyterians relished this kind of government. Then, too, under the stern rule of the Puritan leaders, a great deal of the jollity of old English life had been suppressed, they did not approve, for example, of dancing or field sports.

Charles had said, "He had no mind to go on his travels again," and he determined so to rule that his father's fate should not be his. Between the many difficulties that remained from the troublous times of the Civil War and the period of the Protectorate, he was resolved to steer a wise course.

All those who had taken up arms against the late king were pardoned, with the exception of those who were

directly connected with the trial and execution of Charles I. It would have been wiser to have pardoned all, but eleven were executed and others imprisoned.

The lands which had been taken away from the Church and the Royalists were restored to them, and the Crown Lands were given back to the king. A large part of the standing army was abolished, though such famous regiments as the Coldstream Guards, the King's Horse Guards and the Grenadiers, which owed their origin to the New Model Army under General Monk, were left intact.

Then in 1661 a new Parliament was elected. As can be imagined, it was very largely made up of Royalists and the sympathy of Parliament was with the Church of England and the Royalist cause and against the Nonconformists and those who had fought Charles I.

Immediately laws were passed to endeavour to make people worship according to the customs of the Church of England. The Act of Uniformity (1662) stated that all clergymen must be ordained by a bishop, use the Book of Common Prayer in the services they conducted, and agree that it was wrong to resist the king. Many of the clergy—nearly two thousand—felt they could not accept these rules, and had to give up their livings on St. Bartholomew's Day, 1662. These expelled clergy had no means of livelihood. Many of them gathered their followers together and began to hold meetings in barns and private houses or even in the open fields. Then a law was passed forbidding any meeting of more than five people, unless it was to follow the services of the Prayer Book. Further, in 1665, the Five Miles Act was reintroduced which ordered that no clergyman who had been turned out should conduct a service within five miles of any town. Examples of small chapels built outside this five-mile limit can be seen in the English country-side to-day. A further blow had been aimed at all Nonconformists by the Corporation Act of

1661 which allowed only those who would take Holy Communion in an Anglican church to hold any office in a town. Thus the practice of persecution for religious faith still continued, though without the grim punishments of



A SCENE FROM THE FILM "NELL GWYNN"

This gives an idea of the way courtiers dressed in the reign of Charles II

former years, and it was not until 1828, after many severe struggles, that liberty of worship was granted to all. Of course the laws against the Nonconformists bore equally hard on the Roman Catholics.

**PEPYS AND THE PLAGUE AND FIRE OF LONDON.** We learn a great deal about these times from the Diary of Samuel Pepys (1633-1703). This work, written in a kind of shorthand and only deciphered in 1819, can be seen

to-day in the library of Magdalene College, Cambridge Pepys held high office in the Admiralty and had good opportunities for meeting distinguished persons and getting to know about the affairs of the country.

In 1665 a great Plague broke out in London. The disease was very similar to the "Black Death" (bubonic plague).



SAMUEL PEPYS

Pepys records on 7th June, 1665, "This day, much against my will, I did in Drury Lane see two or three houses marked with a red cross upon the doors, and 'Lord have mercy upon us' writ there, which was a sad sight to me, being the first of the kind . . . I ever saw." Later he writes, "Every day sadder and sadder news of its encrease. In the City died this week 7,496 and of them 6,102 of the plague." Life in London was almost at a standstill no boats

were on the river, shops were shut and grass grew in the streets. Then in September, 1666, broke out the Great Fire of London. Pepys' maid woke him up at 3 a.m. to see the fire, but he did not think it serious and went back to bed. By the morning the fire was spreading rapidly and Pepys went to the Tower of London to watch it. "So down, with my heart full of trouble, to the Lieutenant of the Tower, who tells me that it began this morning in the King's baker's house in Pudding Lane." Before the fire was extinguished, old St Paul's Cathedral, dozens of churches and practically the whole of the City of London were destroyed.

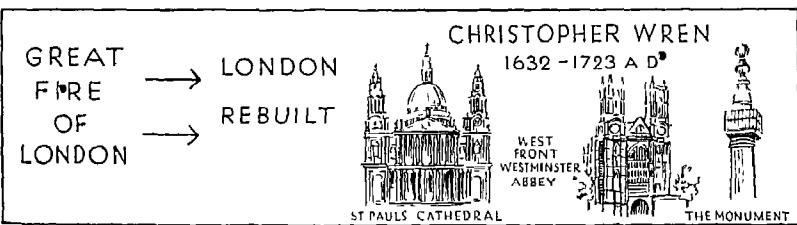
This was a blessing in disguise, for the fire swept away not only the buildings but the last trace of the Plague. It was possible to redesign the city, build wider streets and provide more sanitary dwellings, though a great part of

Wren's ambitious replanning scheme was not carried out (see below).

We learn also from Pepys' dairy something about the war with Holland. In the time of the Commonwealth England had been at war with the Dutch, and in September, 1652, Robert Blake the English Admiral won a battle off the Kent coast. There were several other fights between the Dutch under van Tromp and the English under Blake, the English were finally victors. The struggle was caused through jealousy, for the Dutch and English were trade rivals and had colonies side by side in America.

In 1664 war broke out again. At first the English were successful, then in 1667 the Dutch fleet, taking advantage of the neglected state of the English fleet after the Plague period, sailed up the Thames and set fire to some English vessels. Later peace was made with Holland and as part of the peace treaty St Helena was given to England. This little island was to become famous later as the last home of Napoleon Bonaparte and is still a coaling station for ships of the British Navy.

Charles liked to appear a jovial and light-hearted king, and as one devoted to sport and pleasure. Actually the mask of good humour concealed great wisdom, and he was careful to avoid points of conflict with Parliament, while at the same time steadily increasing his own power. There were many learned men living and working during his reign. In 1645 a number of these men had met in



London to promote the study of science. Later they met at Oxford, and then in 1660 they formed a society which on 22nd April, 1662, was given a charter by Charles II, from which time it has been known as the Royal Society of London for improving Natural Knowledge. It is a great honour to be made a fellow of the Royal Society, and those who have been rewarded with membership are entitled to put the letters "F.R.S." after their names.

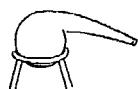
SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN was the great architect who designed the new London, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Monument, the west towers of Westminster Abbey, Temple Bar (now moved to Theobald's Park, Cheshunt), Marlborough House, Greenwich and Chelsea Hospitals, and quite fifty beautiful churches stand to-day as monuments of his work. He also drew up a replanning scheme for central London, with wide straight roads which would have been found a great boon to-day, but the City Council decided the cost was too great.

GRINLING GIBBONS (1648–1730) was a famous carver and sculptor. His work was "discovered" by John Evelyn, another famous man who, like Pepys, has left us his Diary. Evelyn introduced Gibbons to Wren, and in St Paul's and other churches examples of the wonderful carvings of Gibbons can be seen; other fine specimens are at Windsor Castle.

Amongst the scientists of the time we might mention three—William Harvey, Sir Isaac Newton and Edmund Halley.

WILLIAM HARVEY (1578–1657) died a year or two before the Restoration. He had lived through many reigns, had been doctor to James I and Charles I, and was a great student of medicine. He is remembered because he discovered the way in which the blood circulates in the body.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON (1642–1703) is perhaps the most famous of English scientists. Educated at Cambridge, he studied mathematics and science. His aim was to try to

<b>NEWTON</b> 1642-1727AD	<b>BOYLE</b> 1627-1691AD	<b>HARVEY</b> 1578-1657AD	<b>ROYAL SOCIETY</b> 1645 AD	<b>THE COMPANY OF SURGEONS OF LONDON</b> 1541 AD
 NEWTON'S TELESCOPE	 COLOUR	 CHEMIST	 CIRCULATION OF BLOOD	

discover the laws which governed the universe. He showed how matter attracts other matter and helped people to understand the law of gravity, which answers such questions as "Why does a stone fall to the ground when dropped?" "Why do the earth and the other planets revolve round the sun?" Newton also studied the nature of light and gave an explanation of colour. He invented a telescope, a microscope, and a sextant. Newton had a wonderful mind, and he had also the true mark of greatness in that he was a very humble man.

EDMUND HALLEY (1656-1742) was educated at Oxford and trained as an astronomer. In 1676 he went to St. Helena to make a chart of the stars of the Southern Skies. He was admitted to the Fellowship of the Royal Society, made friends with Newton and discovered the Comet named after him. Later Halley was appointed Astronomer Royal at Greenwich.

MILTON, the great Puritan poet, was still alive in Charles II's reign. During the Civil War and under the Protectorate, Milton had used his pen to support the cause in which he believed. When Charles returned, Milton was in dire disgrace. His book which defended the execution of Charles I was ordered to be burnt and the poet was imprisoned for a time. Poor and lonely, Milton devoted his last years to writing one of the most wonderful poems in the language—the epic *Paradise Lost*.

Schools were becoming more common and it is interesting to note that special schools were instituted for girls. Of course it was mainly the children of rich people who

received a proper education, and London was still but a small place. St. James's Park was opened by Charles II; Hyde Park (formerly monastic land appropriated by Henry VIII) had been opened to the public some years previously. Nightingales sang in Vauxhall, and there were



MILTON'S COTTAGE, CHALFONT ST. GILES, BUCKS

Here Milton lived during the Great Plague, 1665

*Courtesy British Railways*

fields in Hoxton, Clerkenwell, and High Holborn. Life was getting more interesting, food was more varied. Chocolate and coffee were beverages new to this country, the latter brought by the East India Company. Business men met in coffee-houses to do their business, and we read from Pepys that tea at £10 a pound could be obtained.

Charles had steered clear of the difficulties that overwhelmed his father; he had, however, become a tool of

Louis XIV, King of France, who paid him a large sum yearly. About this time there was a great uproar about the rumours spread by Titus Oates. This man said that the Roman Catholics were plotting to kill the king and the Duke of York. Later it was proved that Oates was an impostor. At first the Roman Catholics were persecuted, but when it was seen that Oates was lying, there was a reversal of opinion in their favour. During the turmoil it was suggested that James, Duke of York, who was a Roman Catholic, should be declared no longer heir to the throne. Rather than agree to this Charles dissolved Parliament. It was at this time that Charles gave his assent to a very famous Act of Parliament—the HABEAS CORPUS ACT. The name means “have the body,” and by this Act no Englishman can be imprisoned without being brought to trial and his trial must take place as speedily as possible. This Act is still decisive in English law.

Towards the close of his reign Charles had triumphed over all his enemies and was almost an absolute monarch in the land. His death came suddenly through apoplexy on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1685, and on his death-bed he admitted himself to be a Roman Catholic and received the last rites.

### EXERCISES

- 1 The Restoration was a restoration of what?
- 2 Why was the Restoration welcomed by a majority of the people of Britain?
3. What is meant by saying that Charles did not want “to go on his travels again”? Name any wise thing which Charles did

1685

## JAMES II

1688

	-- Reigned 3 years --	
Brother of Charles II		
A Roman Catholic		2nd Declaration of Indulgence, 1688
Monmouth's rebellion, 1685	Declaration of Indulgence, 1687	Trial of Seven Bishops Birth of Son
Sedgemoor		Bloodless Revolution, 1688

## 26. JAMES II (1685-1688)

ON the death of Charles II, his brother the Duke of York came to the throne as King James II. He reigned but three years, and those were full of strife and ended disastrously for him. Within three months of his accession, Monmouth, who claimed to be the son of Charles II, led a rebellion against the king, landing in Dorsetshire and marching northward through Somersetshire. The nobility, however, refused him support, and, finding few allies, he was compelled to retreat. Then the royal troops under Churchill, who afterwards became the famous Duke of Marlborough, were sent against him. The rebel leader tried to take the king's troops by surprise in a night attack on the marshy plains of Sedgemoor in Somerset, but his untrained levies, who were mainly clothiers and farm workers, had forgotten that a deep drainage trench separated them from the Royal army, the surprise failed, and they were badly defeated. Of the prisoners taken, many were tried for high treason by the terrible Judge Jeffreys; several hundreds were executed and many hundreds more were deported overseas. Monmouth himself begged hard for his life, but James would have no mercy and the Duke was executed.

James had definitely declared himself to be a Roman Catholic, and he determined to make worship more easy

for those who were of the same religion. In 1687 he issued a *Declaration of Indulgence*, suspending the laws against both the Roman Catholics and the Nonconformists. The Puritans were opposed to freedom being given to the Catholics, and many refused to leave prison even when told they could go free.

James then appointed his Roman Catholic friends to high offices in the Army, Navy, and Government, displacing Protestants whose conduct was beyond reproach.

The fellows of Magdalén College, Oxford, were expelled for refusing to elect the king's nominee as their President.

Many of those who were strongly opposed to the course of action the king had taken were inclined to bear with him, expecting that he would not live long and that, as he had no son, Mary, his daughter, a Protestant, who had married William, Prince of Orange, would soon succeed him. But then a son was born to the king, and people were disappointed in their hopes of a ruler who would govern with justice for all.

In 1688 James issued another Declaration of Indulgence and ordered it to be read in all the churches. The Archbishop of Canterbury and six other bishops asked that they might be excused from reading it. They were all



JAMES II

*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

arrested and cast into the Tower. At their trial in Westminster Hall crowds of people thronged the streets and the jury, though "king's men," dared not bring the bishops in as guilty; they were acquitted. Bells rang out, the people rejoiced, and even the soldiers who were encamped on Hounslow Heath cheered. On the same day, William of Orange was invited to England to become king, that the threat of a new tyranny might be averted. Accordingly, William landed at Brixham, Devon, in November, 1688, with an army of 13,000 men, and cautiously advanced on London. James offered concessions, but too late. When John Churchill, later Duke of Marlborough, went over to the invaders, James realized that his cause was hopeless. He fled to the court of the French King, Louis XIV. A *Convention Parliament* declared James to have abdicated, and proclaimed William and Mary as joint sovereigns of England and Ireland, later their title to Scotland was confirmed.

### EXERCISES

- 1 In what ways did James II differ from his brother Charles II?
- 2 Why did the people of Britain soon become dissatisfied with James?
- 3 In 1688 a son was born to James. Why did this lead to the Revolution of that year?

	William reigned 13 years	Mary reigned 5 years	
A Protestant Dutch sovereign			
Trouble in Scotland	Trouble in Ireland	Lat Hogue 1692	National Debt, 1693
Killiecrankie, 1689 Glencoe, 1692	Boyne 1690		Bank of England, 1694

## 27. WILLIAM AND MARY

WILLIAM and Mary became sovereigns of the country practically without resistance. This change of rulers is often called "The Bloodless Revolution" because no lives were lost in effecting it. The word "revolution" might also be applied to the event because it settled once and for all the question as to whether King or Parliament was to be supreme. As Macaulay writes, "The King-at-Arms who proclaimed William and Mary before Whitehall Gate, did in truth announce that the struggle was over, that there was entire union between the throne and the Parliament

No reform which the two Houses should propose would be obstinately withheld by the sovereign."

William of Orange, Stadholder of Holland and now King of England, was a Protestant, as were most of those in his native country. He came of a line of men who had fought for their religion—his great-grandfather was William the Silent. You will remember that England and Holland had been at war, not very long before William was invited to become king of England. Catholic France, Holland, and England were rivals in trade. These factors help to explain the causes of the war which soon broke out with France and which was to occupy the energies of William III through almost the whole of his reign.

There was another reason this was the overweening ambition of Louis XIV of France. He had ascended the

throne of France in 1643 when but five years old, and he retained it for seventy-two years. He ruled as an absolute monarch who was determined to raise his country to a commanding position in Europe. One of his most famous sayings was "The State, it is I," and he spoke truly, for

nothing of importance went on in France but he knew of it or had a part in it. The palace of Versailles near Paris—in which the peace treaty after the Great War of 1914–18 was signed—was built under his direction.

You will read to-day of the much disputed question as to where the frontiers of Germany and France ought to lie. Louis wished to make the frontier of France go eastward to the Rhine. The Dutch asked themselves what would happen to their country if Louis extended his frontier along that river. Louis, too, hated the

JOHN CHURCHILL, DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH

*Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*



Protestants and continually persecuted the Huguenots. So when William of Orange was offered the throne of England he accepted largely because he would be in a better position to ward off his French foes. Both Charles II and James II had been favourably disposed towards the French rulers, and, sad to relate, both received large sums of money yearly from Louis on condition that they did all in their power to keep England friendly with France.

Under William's rule the persecution of Nonconformists in England was immediately stopped, and though no definite redress was given to the Roman Catholics, yet the laws were not enforced.

Trouble, however, soon came for William from Scotland and Ireland. Louis lent James II money and French soldiers. In 1689 James landed in Ireland and there the Irish Roman Catholics joined James's army. William hurried across with English and Dutch troops and after a short campaign completely defeated James at the *Battle of the Boyne* (July, 1690). By the Treaty of Limerick William offered the Roman Catholics freedom of worship, but the Irish Protestant Parliament would not agree and continued to pass laws against Catholics.

Trouble in Scotland was to be expected, for the Stuarts were Scots. In 1689 Claverhouse, the "bonnie Dundee" of the ballad, gathered the clansmen of the Highlands around him. (Claverhouse had been the leader of the army which had persecuted the Presbyterians in Charles II's reign.)



WILLIAM III AT THE BATTLE OF  
THE BOYNE  
*From an old print*

The Highlanders met the English troops at the Pass of *Killiecrankie*. Here the English were heavily defeated, though Dundee was mortally wounded in the fight. No one was able to take his place as leader of the Highlanders, and one by one the clans agreed to be loyal to William III. The Macdonalds of Glencoe (through no fault of their own) were the last to submit and Lord Stair, Secretary for Scotland, decided that they should be severely punished for their tardiness. A regiment of soldiers, commanded by Captain Campbell, marched into the Valley of Glencoe, saying they were to stay there a short time before going on to Fort William. The Macdonalds had always been mortal enemies of the Campbells, but now they received the soldiers as their guests, and for several days there was peace in the valley. But early on the morning of 13th February, 1692, the troops silently arose and massacred nearly the whole clan. The result of this was that Jacobitism (support of James and the Stuarts) continued to be strong in Scotland.

THE FRENCH WARS. England was practically at war with France from the moment that William became king. This war was not about the soil of France, as it had been in the days of Edward III and Henry V; it was a war of defence against the aggression of Louis, also it was fought for the possession of lands in other parts of the world. We shall see later how this struggle resulted. In 1692 Louis got his fleet together with the intention of invading England. The English navy totally defeated the French at the BATTLE OF LA HOGUE and destroyed the French transports. This was a very important victory, and here we might remember three events together—

1588 Defeat of Spanish Armada—Spanish invasion prevented.

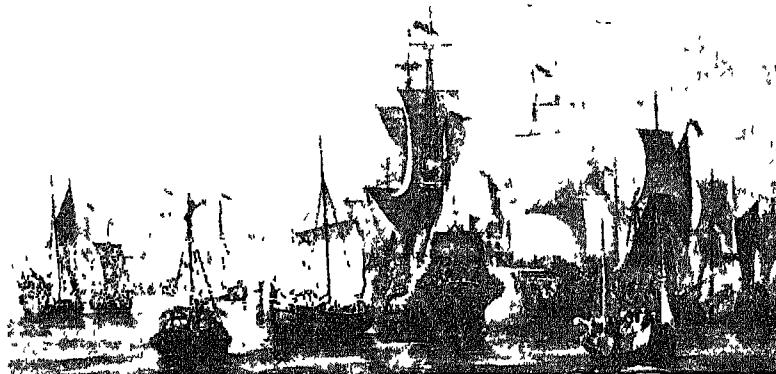
*Interval 104 years.*

1692. Battle of La Hogue—French invasion prevented.

*Interval 113 years.*

1805. Battle of Trafalgar—French invasion under Napoleon prevented.

On land William's forces were less successful, but in



KING WILLIAM III REVIEWING THE DUTCH FLEET, 1691

*From the Painting by Everhardus Koster  
Courtesy Director and Secretary, Victoria and Albert Museum*

1697 peace was patched up and Louis XIV agreed to acknowledge William as king of England.

There are two things which were instituted in William's reign about which you read a great deal to-day—

(1) THE NATIONAL DEBT. Wars are expensive. William III, though king, was a foreigner, and whilst previously kings had borrowed money on their word to pay it back, William could not borrow so easily. The war was really a national affair, and so it was agreed that in future money should be borrowed by the STATE itself, and the nation should be responsible for the money. When money is wanted, taxes are levied, but if the amount of money required is very large then it is sometimes better to raise,

a loan and pay the *interest* on the loan by the proceeds of taxation. In the Great War of 1914–18 the National Debt increased enormously. At one time it was costing more than £5,000,000 a day to pay for the war.

(2) THE BANK OF ENGLAND was established in 1694. By its Charter, it was to manage the National Debt, and in return lent the government £1,200,000 at 8 per cent. Since that time the Bank of England has been an important national institution. The headquarters of the Bank of England to-day are in Threadneedle Street, London.

Other notable laws made in the reign of William were—

(1) *The Triennial Acts* by which Parliament had to be elected every three years. Thus no king could keep a Parliament in power without an election for more than three years.

(2) In 1695 Parliament refused to renew the *Licensing Act* which gave the government sole control of the Press. Since this date, with a few exceptions in time of war, printers of the country have been at liberty to publish news and books quite freely.

(3) Fairer trials for those charged with treason were arranged.

Towards the end of William's reign—Mary his wife died in 1694—war broke out anew with France. In 1700 a Bourbon, Philip of Anjou, grandson of Louis XIV, became king of Spain. William feared the consequence of this expansion of French power. When Louis declared he would support the claim of James Edward, now known as the "Old Pretender," on the death of James II England had further cause to agree with William that France was a danger. Preparations for another war were put in hand, but before it broke out William met with a fatal accident; his horse tripped over a molehill and threw his master, who was killed. Only the Jacobites rejoiced,

as they drank to the health of "the little gentleman in black velvet"

### EXERCISE

Turn to the table of events on pages 146-7. What other event in recent years suggests itself as a fourth turning-point in history to add to those given in the table?



WILLIAM III

*Courtesy Director and Secretary Victoria and Albert Museum*

# STORIES ABOUT HISTORY

Title	Author	Publisher	Notes
<i>King Philip's Inward Chronicle of the Schonberg-Gotha Family</i> <i>By Right of Conquest</i> <i>Earl May Day</i> <i>The Baron's Heir</i> <i>My Lord, Reading</i> <i>The Grail of Queen Elizabeth</i> <i>The Tower of London</i> <i>Plot and Peril</i> <i>Unknown to History</i> <i>Simple Simon</i>	Wallace B. Nichols Mrs. E. Rundell Charles G. A. Henty E. Everett Green A. W. Fox G. Hollis H. T. Corstock W. Harrison Ainsworth H. E. Boylston Charlotte M. Yonge From Kipling's 'Rewards and Fairies'	Pitman Nelson Blackie Nelson Macmillan S. P. C. K. Harrap Dent Cassell Macmillan Macmillan	Perkin Warbeck's Rebellion Germany, 1503-1547, Luther Conquest of Mexico, 1519-1521 London, 1517—apprentices Story of Thomas More Dissolution of Reading Abbey. Tale of Elizabeth's childhood London and the Tower, 1558-1554 Queen Mary's reign Story of Mary Queen of Scots Drake in his young days About Elizabethan sea-dogs Period 1572-1588 Period 1575-1588 Period 1582-1588 Drake sings the King of Spain's beard Romance of Elizabeth's reign The Spanish Armada A boy's adventures with strolling players in Elizabeth's reign Revolt in the Netherlands, 1573 Period 1587-1597 Story of Sir Walter Raleigh Old London, c. 1620 James I., Charles I. introduces Vasa Dyck Life in New England colony, 1636
<i>Sea-dogs All</i> <i>Under Drake's Flag</i> <i>Westward Ho!</i> <i>Against the Might of Spain</i> <i>A Fair Prisoner</i>	G. A. Henty C. Kingsley P. F. Westerman 'Morice Gerard'	Nelson Blackie Macmillan Pilgrim Press Partridge	
<i>Kenilworth</i> <i>Beacon Fires</i> <i>Master Skylark</i>	Sir Walter Scott "Morice Gerard" J. Bennett	Hodder Macmillan	
<i>Beggars of the Sea</i> <i>A Gentleman-at-arms</i> <i>Guy Fawkes</i> <i>The Shepherd of the Ocean</i> <i>The Fortunes of Nigel</i> <i>Old Blackfriars</i>	T. Bevan Herbert Strang W. Harrison Ainsworth G. I. Witham Sir Walter Scott B. Marshall	Nelson O. U. P. — Wells Gardner Black Seeley	
<i>With Musketeer and Redskin</i>	W. Murray Graydon	Shaw	

Title	Author	Publisher	Notes
<i>The Dark Frigate</i>	C B Hawes	Hemmings	Adventure at sea in Charles I's reign
<i>The Draytons and the Davents</i>	E R Charles	Nelson	Cavaliers and Roundheads
<i>The Trumpet and the Suan</i>	Marjorie Bowen	Pitman	An adventure of the Civil War
<i>Mistress Saffice</i>	J S Fletcher	Dent	Hero comes despatches for Cromwell
<i>Friends though Deceived</i>	G A Henty	Browne	Civil War
<i>Hal o' the Ironsides</i>	S R Crockett	Hodder & Stoughton	Cromwell and his Ironsides
<i>In England Once</i>	H Chesterton	Blackwell	Civil War
<i>The Children of the New Forest</i>	H. C. Mayratt	Dent	Children's adventures in Civil War
<i>Harry Oglevee</i>	James Grant	Routledge	Cromwell and Durham
<i>The House of the Oak</i>	H A Hinkson	S P C K	Charles II after Worcester
<i>Silas Verney</i>	Pickering	Blacks	Adventures, 1660-1660
<i>Old St Paul's</i>	W Harrison Ainsworth	Jenkins	Plague and fire

## LOCAL HISTORY

THE second book of this series deals with a very important period of history, and it is an age which is much nearer to us than that described in Book I. There is, therefore, a greater chance for you to find some local connection with the general historical story.

**TOKENS** are pieces of money which were not coined by the State but manufactured by tradespeople from the reign of Henry VIII onwards, as there were then no smaller coins than a penny. You will probably be able to see some of these in your local museum and learn the names of the innkeepers and shopkeepers of Tudor times.

**CHURCH HISTORY.** Is there any ruin of a monastery in your area? Can you find when your parish church was built? Are there any chained Bibles? Did Cromwell's men do any damage? Are there any memorials to martyrs? Are there any monuments or statues to famous Tudor or Stuart personages?

**CASTLES AND HOUSES.** Find what famous people have stopped at the large houses and castles near your school. Perhaps Mary Queen of Scots or the young Princess Elizabeth was a guest in one of them.

**TUDOR HOUSES.** With the passing of the castle, large residences were built in Tudor times and there are examples of these still standing. The "twisted" brick chimney is characteristic. Here are the names of some famous Tudor mansions still standing—

Compton Wynyates (Warwick), Down Ampney (Glos.), Haddon Hall (Derby), Helmingham (Suffolk), Harlaxton (Lincs.), Hampton Court, Layer Marney (Essex), Montacute House (Somerset), Moyns Park (Essex), Thornbury Castle (Glos.), Wolferton (Norfolk).

Large Elizabethan mansions are to be found as follows—

Burghley (Northants.), Charlecote, Kirby (Northants.), Knole (Kent), Longleat (Wilts.), Longford Castle (Wilts.), Moreton Mall (Cheshire), Penshurst (Kent), Westwood (Worcs.), Wollaton (Notts.).

Other examples of houses built at this time are to be seen in Chester, York, Bristol, Gloucester, Norwich, Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Ledbury.

#### HOUSES IN STEWART TIMES—

Audley End (Essex), Bramshills (Hants.), Hatfield House (Herts.), and Holland House (Kensington, London).

THE CIVIL WAR. A note on the connection between this war and your locality is given in the chapter on the Civil War.

In all your studies remember that the men and women we read about *once lived*. History stories are stories of *real life*. Find what part your locality played in the story of the past.



SIR ISAAC NEWTON

*From an engraving in the Science Museum, South Kensington*

## SOVEREIGNS FROM 1485 to 1702

### TUDORS

Henry VII, 1485–1509  
Henry VIII, 1509–1547  
Edward VI, 1547–1553  
Mary, 1553–1558  
Elizabeth, 1558–1603

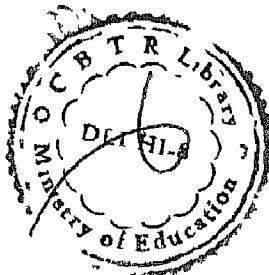
### STUARTS

James I, 1603–1625  
Charles I, 1625–1649  
(The Commonwealth and Protectorate, 1649–1660)  
Charles II, 1660–1685  
James II, 1685–1688  
William and Mary, 1689–1702  
(Mary died 1694)

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

John Cabot reached Newfoundland, 1497  
Margaret of England married James IV of Scotland, 1503  
Battle of Flodden, 1513  
Fall of Wolsey, 1529  
English Church separated from Church of Rome, 1532  
English Bible placed in Churches, 1536  
Dissolution of the Monasteries, 1536–39  
Mary of England married Philip of Spain, 1554  
Mary Queen of Scots executed, 1587  
Defeat of the Spanish Armada, 1588  
Charter to East India Company, 1600  
Poor Law instituted, 1601  
Gunpowder Plot, 1605  
Raleigh executed, 1618  
Pilgrim Fathers land in America, 1620

- Petition of Right, 1628  
Short Parliament met, 1640  
Long Parliament met, 1640  
Execution of Charles I, 1649  
The Restoration, 1660  
Habeas Corpus Act, 1679  
National Debt set up, 1693  
Bank of England founded, 1694



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PITMAN

